THE OLD PLANTERS OF BEVERLY IN MASSACHUSETTS AND THE THOUSAND ACRE GRANT OF 1635

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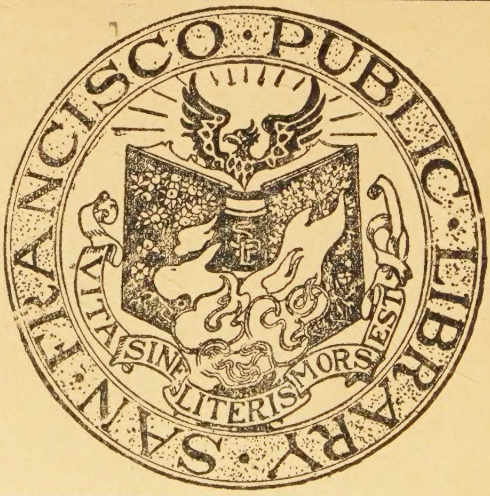

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SHOWING THE APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF THE EARLIEST HOUSES IN BEVERLY

The Old Planters of Beverly in Massachusetts and The Thousand Acre Grant of 1635

By
ALICE GERTRUDE LAPHAM
Historian of Beverly Historical Society

With Illustrations

CAMBRIDGE
Printed at *The Riverside Press* for
THE BEVERLY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
and the
CONANT FAMILY ASSOCIATION
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FOREWORD

THE sources of information about the *Old Planters and Their Lands* have included the following:

General Dictionary of New England, by James Savage.

History of New England, by William Hubbard.

History of Beverly, by Edwin M. Stone.

The Landing at Cape Ann, by John Wingate Thornton.

Annals of Salem, by Joseph B. Felt.

History of Salem, Massachusetts, by Sidney Perley.

The Old Planters, by George D. Phippen. Essex Institute Collections, volume I.

Beverly in 1700, by Sidney Perley. Essex Institute Collections, volume LV.

Genealogical Sketches of the Woodbury Family, by Hon. Charles Levi Woodbury.

History and Genealogy of the Balch Family, by Galusha B. Balch.

History and Genealogy of the Conant Family, by Frederick Odell Conant.

Genealogy of the Dodge Family, by Joseph Thompson Dodge, Ph.D.

Roger Conant and the Early Settlements of the North Shore of Massachusetts, by Frances Rose-Troup.

The Corn Mill, by Calvin Pierce.

The North Beverly Church, by Calvin Pierce.

North Beverly Church Records, by Beverly Historical Society Collections.

First Cotton Mill in America, by Robert S. Rantoul. Essex Institute Collections, volume XXXIII.

John I. Baker Papers, Beverly Historical Society Collections.

Deeds, Wills, Letter, etc., from Essex Registry of Deeds; Essex County Probate Court; Beverly Historical Society Collections.

To the following people I am indebted for information as to family history and houses, or for the privilege of visiting dwellings that were erected in colonial times: Mrs. Marietta Boyle; Mrs. Daisy Nightingale; Mrs. Angeline Wallis; Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Holbrook; Mr. Fred Wallis; Mrs. Joseph Andrews; Mrs. Arthur Cressy; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Woodbury; Mr. H. J. Hurlburt; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Conant; Mr. John Murney; Mr. Calvin Pierce; Mr. Ulysses G. Haskell; Mrs. Edward Millett; Mr. Frederick Dodge; Miss Isabelle Dodge; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Stevens; Mr. Francis Grant.

In the spelling of family names the form used has been that most often found on original documents. The oldest papers belonging to the Beverly Historical Society or recorded in Salem give the names of the families first settling on the Old Planters' grant as: Conant, Balch, Dodge, Woodbery, and Rayment. These forms were generally in use during colonial times, with variations, it is true, according to the writers' ability to spell. Indeed, such variations sometimes occurred within a single paper; and Charles Levi Woodbury has discovered more than forty different spellings of the name of his ancestors! Despite such irregularity in orthography, the forms used in these pages have been those actually employed by the individuals in question, and have altered as the families themselves adopted different spellings of their names.

ALICE G. LAPHAM

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THE OLD PLANTERS OF BEVERLY AND THEIR LANDS

SETTLEMENT UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF ROGER CONANT

THE earliest history of Beverly is to be found in the records of Salem, since Beverly, until its incorporation as a town in 1668, was included in Salem's territory. These records have been preserved in two books: the *Book of Grants*, in which the first entry bore the date, October 1, 1634, and the *Town Records*, which began December 26, 1636. By reference to copies of these volumes, to documents recorded at the Essex County Registry of Deeds and the Probate Court, to various original papers, and to records of investigations by students of colonial history, it is proposed to establish as nearly as possible the location of the lands of the Old Planters, and to follow to at least the fifth generation the later disposal of the estates.

The Old Planters of Beverly were: 'Mr.' Roger Conant,[1] John Woodbery, William Trask, John Balch, and Peter Palfrey. An understanding of the position which they held in the community of Salem, and a recognition of their claims as pioneers of the North Shore of Massachusetts Bay, involve harking back to

[1] Significant of the respect in which he was held in the community, Roger Conant was frequently named in the Salem records as 'Mr.' Conant, thus receiving a title of distinction less often accorded to his colleagues.

the year 1623, when the Dorchester Company of England founded the Cape Ann stage, or station, and built a rude fort, later called Stage Fort, on the westerly side of Gloucester harbor. The merchants and Puritan ministers who formed the Company established the plantation with the purpose of making it, not only a fishing station, but also a colony where Puritans might find refuge. It is the twofold motive underlying the enterprise which explains why the Adventurers asked Roger Conant to be the Governor, or manager, of the Cape Ann station.

Roger Conant was of a family 'esteemed for their exemplary piety'. His father and his grandfather had each held the office of church warden, a fact which attests their acknowledged ability and sterling character. Unlike the Separatists, they clung to the liturgy of the Church of England, and joined other Puritans in the endeavor to simplify the established form of worship and to redeem it from what they held its faults. Bred in a deeply religious atmosphere and himself an avowed Puritan, Roger Conant impressed the Dorchester Company as a man eminently fitted for the leadership of a colony founded as a haven for Puritans.

He had, moreover, a practical knowledge of the fishing industry. He was born in East Budleigh, Devonshire County, the home of a sturdy seafaring race which numbered many fishermen and 'salterns'. The demand for salt in that day was great, owing to the large consumption of salt fish in the monasteries and on the frequent holy days. That Roger Conant should have been apprenticed to a salter was not strange. Evidently

he was made a freeman of the Salters' Company at some time before 1616, when he appended to his signature on a legal document, 'Salter, of London'. It seems probable that he remained in London until late in the autumn of 1622, and then set sail in the ship 'Ann' bound for Plymouth.

Conant's stay in Plymouth, however, was brief, although apparently long enough for him, in his capacity as a salt-man, to set up pans there for the colonists. The differences in religious belief between himself and the Pilgrims made a long sojourn with them impossible, and he sailed northward to Nantasket, at that time a center of trade in the Plymouth Colony's territory. Here it was that he received the Dorchester Company's invitation to become the Governor of the Cape Ann station.

Even under his stewardship the affairs of the Cape Ann undertaking did not prosper. The colony, it is true, grew in numbers, if we may accept the record of Benjamin Balch in 1760, that 'they carried on a fishery 4 or 5 years with two hundred servants'.[1] The same writer declared that his ancestor, John Balch, came to Cape Ann 'with three other viz: Conant, Woodberry and Palfreys, abought the year 1623', thus naming the men who were associated with Roger Conant as Old Planters. These colonists were apparently among the few who were steadfast and dependable, as the record of the 'ill-carriage of our men at land' suggests the shiftless character of a majority of the Cape Ann fishermen. Their weakness and lack of interest in the undertaking contributed, no doubt, to its failure to realize for the

[1] Essex Institute Collections, vol. IV, page 127.

merchants a profit on their investment. Other causes of their determination to abandon the enterprise were the depreciation in the value of their ships, and the sterility of the soil in the immediate vicinity of the station, which made it impossible for the colony to become self-supporting through agriculture.

When the Dorchester Company settled accounts with the fishermen and offered them a passage home, the thriftless element in the colony gladly accepted the proposal. Not so the Old Planters. With a vision of a refuge in the New World for those who were undergoing persecution for their faith, and with the indomitable will to persist in the establishment of such a refuge despite great obstacles, Roger Conant and his devoted band of followers, to the number of about thirty, sailed southwest along the coast in search of a suitable place for a plantation. They found what Conant described in a letter to the Reverend John White of Dorchester, England, as 'a neck of land lying a little to the westward' that was a favorable site for an agricultural colony. This neck of land, called by the Indians Naumkeag, had the further advantage of being 'environed with an arm of the sea on each side, in either of which vessels and ships of good burthen might easily anchor'.[1]

At Naumkeag, accordingly, Roger Conant and his companions decided to make a settlement. Just where they landed has been a matter of varying opinions, some contending that it was on the gray ledge on the Salem side of the Beverly-Salem harbor, a little to the west of

[1] Phippen, in 'The Old Planters of Salem', Essex Institute Collections, vol. 1, page 97.

Essex Bridge, and others maintaining that it was up the North River in a sheltered cove not far from the railroad bridge.

The new settlement, like the earlier one at Cape Ann, of which, as Frances Rose-Troup points out, it was the 'legitimate successor',[1] suffered many trials. The Reverend John Lyford refused to cast his lot with the Old Planters, and tried to persuade others to accompany him to Virginia. Again the great moral courage of Roger Conant was manifest in his determination to remain at Naumkeag, even though utterly forsaken. In a petition to the General Court, dated May 28, 1671,[2] he referred to the founding of the colony in these words: '... when in the infancy thereof, it was in great hassard of being deserted, I was a means, through grace assisting me, to stop the flight of those few that then were heare with me, and that by my utter deniall to goe away with them, who would haue gon either for England or mostly for Virginia, but thereupon stayed to the hassard of our liues'.

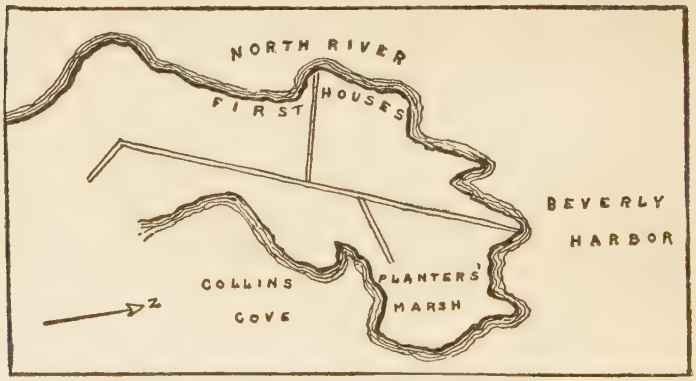
In the perilous adventure of opening a new land for settlement Roger Conant had the warm support of the Reverend John White, who assured him that if he, with Woodbery, Balch, and Palfrey, would remain at Naumkeag, supplies for the colony would be forthcoming and also a patent giving the pioneers a legal title to the land. With this encouragement the planters erected their first rude dwellings, and in the spring of 1627 they cleared

[1] 'Roger Conant and the Early Settlements of the North Shore of Massachusetts', by Frances Rose-Troup, Fellow of the Royal Historical Society of England.

[2] Massachusetts Archives, Towns, vol. 112, leaf 217.

ground for the raising of corn and also of tobacco. To the exact location of the little settlement Dr. William Bentley of Salem gave a clue, when he made the following entry in his diary, March 17, 1801:[1]

'Capt. J. Osgood having purchased part of Woodbridge's estate in Ferry Lane, formerly so called, the lots lying near Horton's Point, so called, on the point below Skerry's, fell to his share. Westward of the point the ground rose higher than upon any land below Windmill point, & having been covered with Locusts, it had acquired a soil which gave it the appearance of a nole rising from the natural soil. Capt. Osgood made the purchase among other purposes to remove this ground from North River side to Planters' Marsh side, & in digging he found the natural soil six feet below and that this was only accumulated land, blown from Horton's point. On the ground he found several Loads of Rock bedded in Clay as was usual in the Cottages made by the first settlers.... The rocks must have been brought from Lobster point ¾ of a mile or from Beverly side. They were rude and of irregular shapes.'



Upon such foundations as Dr. Bentley described the pioneers probably erected their log houses, the roofs of

[1] Diary of William Bentley, vol. II, page 366.

which were thatched. Here they lived for more than a year without receiving the promised patent, and in the autumn of 1627 they decided to send John Woodbery to England as their agent, confident that aid would not be denied them if the needs of Naumkeag were put before the Dorchester Company. Frances Rose-Troup is authority for the statement that William Trask accompanied John Woodbery on the voyage back to England, and that they sailed in the ship which the Dorchester Company had previously dispatched to Naumkeag with 'twenty rother cattle'.[1] By the time, however, that Woodbery could present his appeal for help, the English Adventurers had found it impossible to provide sufficient supplies for the colonists, and they had transferred to a group of Puritans in London, associated with several West Country merchants and noblemen, all the territory in New England from three miles north of the Merrimac River to three miles south of the Charles River. The new company, which styled itself the 'New England Company for a Plantation in Massachusetts Bay', soon came under the active leadership of Matthew Cradock, and it is not unlikely to have been at his suggestion that John Endecott[2] received the appointment as Governor of the settlement at Naumkeag, since a kinswoman of Cradock was the wife of Endecott. The latter was recognized as a man of undaunted courage and of absolute integrity. He was also an efficient business manager, qualified to establish the New England plantation on a

[1] Obsolete or provincial English for horned beasts. — Century Dictionary.

[2] This was the spelling of the family name used by Governor Endecott himself and two succeeding generations. Not until after 1724 do we find an *i* substituted for the *e* in the second syllable.

sound basis. Further to strengthen the settlement the Company fitted out additional colonists, and in June, 1628, these new adventurers set sail for Naumkeag in the ship 'Abigail', accompanied by John Endecott as their leader, and also by William Trask, Richard Brackenbury, John Woodbery, his brother William, and his son Humphrey. The arrival of this group of settlers raised the number of persons in the plantation to probably more than fifty.

Soon additional houses arose beside the bank of North River. Mr. Endecott went farther up the stream than the Old Planters, and apparently selected as a site for his dwelling the present southeast corner of the junction of Federal and Washington Streets.[1] Not satisfied with the type of temporary huts constructed by the pioneers, he sent men to the Cape Ann station to take down the 'great frame house' which had probably been the home of Roger Conant.[2] With the lumber thus obtained carpenters built a substantial residence for John Endecott. Planks for frame houses in early New England were usually cut in a saw-pit. A log was laid across the pit; one man stood on the top of the log and another man beneath it in the pit; and they drew a long saw up and down the whole length of the log, cutting off successive slabs, some of which were eighteen inches or more in width.

The newcomers soon learned that homes can not be established on virgin soil without severe hardships and unceasing labor. Threatening to arrest their progress

[1] 'History of Salem', by Sidney Perley, page 98.

[2] See the deposition of Richard Brackenbury, Essex Registry of Deeds, book 5, leaf 107.

was the dissension between them and the Old Planters, a controversy inevitable not only because Endecott supplanted Conant as Governor of the colony, and because he manifested little appreciation of the Planters' efforts in providing the plantation he was to govern, but also because he was in sympathy with the Separatists, and forbade the use of the Book of Common Prayer, notwithstanding the fact that the settlement had been designed as a refuge for those preferring the Puritan liturgy. Small wonder is it that Conant, Woodbery, Balch, and Palfrey should feel aggrieved. That they and their followers expressed their discontent in no uncertain terms is evident from the letter of instruction sent by the New England Company to the 'Governor and Council for London's Plantation in the Massachusetts Bay in New England', dated April 17, 1629:

'... wee haue ordered that the body of the gounm^{t} there shall consist of 13 psons, wee are content that the old planters that are now there wthin o^{r} plantacon and lymitts thereof shall chuse two of the discreetest and juditiall men from amongst themselues to bee of the gounm^{t}, that they may see wee are not wanting to giue them fitting respect, in that wee would haue their consent (if it may be) in making wholesome constitucons for gounm^{t}; alwayes pvyded, that none shalbe chosen, or meddle in their choice, but such as will liue amongst vs, and conforme themselues to o^{r} gounm^{t}. But if they shall refuse to pforme this o^{r} direccon, then wee hereby authorise yo^{w}... to nominate & elect two such men as in yo^{r} opinion yo^{w} shall hold meete for that place & office.

'And that it may appeare, as well to all the world as to the old planters themselues, that wee seeke not to make them slaues, (as it seemes by yo^{r} letter some of them thinke themselues to bee become by meanes of o^{r} patent) wee are content

they shalbe ptakers of such p^r^viledges as wee, from his ma^ts^ espetiall grace, wi^th^ great cost, fauor of psonages of note, & much labo^r^, haue obtained, and that they shalbe incorporated into this socyetie, and enioy, not only those lands w^ch^ formly they haue manured, but such a further pporcon as, by th'advice and judgm^t^ of yo^r^selfe and the rest of the councell, shalbe thought fitt for them or any of them. And besides, it is still o^r^ purpose that they should haue some benefitt by the comon stock... w^th^ this addicon, that if it bee held too much to take 30 pcent and the freight of the goods for and in consideration of o^r^ adventure & disbursm^t^ of o^r^ monyes... that yo^w^ moderate the said rates as yo^w^, w^th^... the councell, shall thinke to bee agreeable to equitie and good conscience. And o^r^ further orders is, that none bee ptakers of any of the aforesd p^r^uiledges and pfitts but such as bee peaceable men, and of honest lyfe and conversacon, & desirous to liue amongst vs, and conforme themselues to good order and gounm^t^.

'And as touching the old planters their earnest desire for the psent to continue the planting of tobacco, wee are of opinion that the old planters will haue small encouragm^t^ to that employm^t^, for wee fynde heere that it doth hardly pduce the fraight and custome.... Nevertheless, if the old planters (for wee exclude all others) conceive that they cannot otherwise pvide for their livelyhood, wee leave it to the discretion of yo^r^-selfe and the councell there to giue way for the psent to their planting of it in such mann, and w^th^ such restriccons, as yo^w^ and the said councell shall thinke fittinge...; wee absolutely forbidd the sale of it, or the vse of it... vnless vpon vrgent occasion for the benefitt of health, & taken privately.'

The privileges accorded the Old Planters in the foregoing letter,[1] as well as any benefits from their labor on the plantation, were possible only upon their acceptance of the situation, since they were in the minority. By

[1] Massachusetts Bay Colony Records, vol. 1, page 386.

July, 1629, a peaceable settlement of the controversy had been achieved, according to the testimony of the Reverend Francis Higginson,[1] who affirmed that 'by common consent of all the ould planters, all are now combyned in one body politique'.[2] In this action is manifest the influence of Roger Conant. Unfaltering in his course when a principle was at stake, he was ever ready to sacrifice his own wishes and interests to the greatest public good. His attitude of tolerance and conciliation impressed his followers, who joined with him in service to the community. Their names appear in the records again and again: they were present at town meetings; they were chosen as jurors; they were selectmen and 'ratters', or assessors; they were appointed to survey bounds and highways, not only within the limits of Salem, but even as far distant as Dorchester and Roxbury. Roger Conant also served as an inspector of canoes, a member of the committee for 'seating the people' in church, a referee in disputes, a witness to deeds, an administrator of estates, a Justice of the Quarterly Court, and a Deputy to the General Court.

Several years passed after the formation of 'one body politique' before Salem obtained the power of granting land to the settlers. From the statement in a letter to John Winthrop, Jr., March 25, 1633, that 'There was presented to the Lords lately, about 22 of Indicutts lawes', it seems possible that the jurisdiction of the

[1] Francis Higginson was one of three ministers who came to Salem in 1629. He was elected by the male members of the colony to be the teacher of the Salem Church, Samuel Skelton being chosen as pastor.

[2] Tradition has it that to the adjustment of factional differences was due the change in the name of the settlement from Naumkeag to Salem, meaning peace.

government in the Salem plantation was referred to the British Parliament; and the absence of records from 1628 to 1634 may be due to the fact that they were carried to England. March 3, 1635/6, an order passed by the General Court confirmed certain rights to New England towns: '... it is therefore ordered, that the freemen of every town, or the major part of them, shall onely have power to dispose of their own lands, and woods,... to grant lots, and make such orders as may concern the well ordering of their own towns...'[1] Among the earliest records in the Salem Book of Grants is the following grant made to the Old Planters:

'25th of the 11th moneth 1635

'(Ordered) That Cap^{n} Traske, Jn^{o} Woodbery, m^{r} Connant, Peter Palfrey, & John Balch are to haue 5 fearmes viz. each 200 acres a peice to (a) fearme in all a thousand acres of land togeather lying and bei(ng) at the head of Basse River 124 pole in breadth and soe (to) runne northerly to the River by the great pond side,[2] and soe (in) breadth making vp the full quantitye of a thousand acres, these lymits laid out & surveyed by vs

'John Woodbery
'John Balch'

The first proprietors of the grant near Bass River and their immediate successors apparently arranged and managed their 'fearmes' together. The land was divided among them according to its quality — 'vpland', 'meddo', or marsh — and the various qualities were allotted to the grantees equally, so that each man should have in all two hundred acres. On the '7th of

[1] Massachusetts Historical Collections, third series, vol. 9, page 257.
[2] Wenham Lake.

the 3th moneth 1636', there was a record: 'Graunted to John Woodbery & John Balch & Mr Conant, 5 acres of meadow in some convenient place.'[1] These three Old Planters made their homes in Beverly, in what they called Bass River Side. Peter Palfrey sold his share of the grant to 'Farmer' William Dodge, and the two hundred acres owned by William Trask passed into the possession of Thomas Scruggs.

For some time the Planters acted as joint owners in selling various pieces of land:

'Roger Conant William Dodg Benjamin Baulch & John Ramant executors to Thomas Scruggs of Salem... in consideration of five pounds have sold unto Edmond Patch ten acres of land... w^{ch} tenn acres of land is a part of there joynt farme & lyes next adjoyning unto Rich: Dodg his farme....'[2]

March 23, 1670, '... Wee, Rodger Connant Jn^{o} Rayement & Benjamin Balch of Bass River side or otherwise Beverly, planters, doe declare for ourselves, our heirs and assignes that wee have sold unto Isaack Hull... nine ackers... part swamp and part upland, for nine pounds... which land lyeth neere his now dwelling house, being bounded by John Woodbery Sen his land on y^{e} north east part of itt and y^{e} aforesd John Woodbery Sen on y^{e} south east of itt, alsoe y^{e} country high waye on y^{e} north west side of itt...'[3]

The same day William Dodge, John Rayment, Roger Conant, Benjamin Balch, and Peter Woodbery conveyed to Isaac Hull five acres of land lying near the 'south east corner of y^{e} great pond'.

It appears that Roger Conant, John Woodbery, and John Balch moved to Bass River Side soon after receiving their grant of land in 1635. In 1637 the Town

[1] Salem Book of Grants. [2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 1, leaf 33.
[3] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 3, leaf 78.

of Salem ordered that 'm^r Connonts house, ground, and halfe acre of corne standing on the same next vnto m^r Jn^o ffisk, shalbe bought by the Town for ould m^r William Plase, and the Town to mak payment thereof'. At this time Mr. Conant's new house in Beverly must have been ready for occupancy. It stood, as nearly as can be determined, on the eastern side of what is now Cabot Street and a little farther north than the Balch house — near the later division line between the land of Joseph L. Standley and Eben H. Moulton. The Planter's house is said to have been near an Indian path which led from the sea around the head of Bass River to 'Wenham great pond'. Balch Street, then, was an ancient way, as was also a part of Cabot Street. The latter highway, not known by its present name until after 1830, has somewhat changed its course [1] since colonial days, but the section near the brook was evidently a traveled road before 1666, when Roger Conant named it as a boundary of a lot conveyed to his son: [2]

'To all people to whome these p'sent writinge shall come Roger Conant of Salem in the County of Essex in New England, yeoman, sendeth greeting. Know y^ee that I y^e s^d Roger Conant for y^e love & naturall affection which I have & beare vnto my sonne Lott ... haue given... vnto y^e s^d Lott Conant my now dwelling house & all that my land adjoining thereto, with y^e orchard & all appurtenances there to belonging scittuat & lying on Bass River soe called... all the s^d land containing about twenty acres... & is bounded with a bridg in the highwaye & the brook to the South & y^e land of Edward

[1] The volume, 'Highways', Beverly Town Records, contains a collection of measures that authorized the improvement of existing roads and the laying out of new thoroughfares.

[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 3, leaf 28; November 20, 1666.

Bishop on y^e^ north y^e^ land of Henry Herrick Seny'r on y^e^ brook side to y^e^ east, together with som land of me y^e^ s^d^ Roger Conant at the north and on the east & the highwaye to the west: alsoe twelve acres... adjoyning on y^e^ east side to the north end on the easterne side of the brook & further bounded with y^e^ land of Henry Herrick Seny'r to the south & north with y^e^ land of Benjamin Balch and east with the land of the Woodberyes, abbutting as afores^d^ to y^e^ west against y^e^ afores^d^ twenty acres neere y^e^ brooke: Alsoe about ten acres of meddow lying in the great marsh against Wenham river, bounded east and north with y^e^ Woodberyes marsh on y^e^ west with Benjamin Balch & south with y^e^ land of me y^e^ s^d^ Roger: alsoe sixty acres of vpland lying neere Richard Dodges farme, bounded with y^e^ land of Humfrey Woodberye on y^e^ east the land of William Dodg on y^e^ west a highwaye on the north and the land of William Dodg Seny'r and Roger Hascall on the south: alsoe one acre of salt marsh bounded with the milne river south with Benjamin Balch east and north and the Woodberyes west: alsoe one acre of marsh at the thatch pond lying in the midle of it....

'Roger Conant'

The land which Lot Conant received totaled one hundred and four acres. The same day he leased the homestead to Roger Conant and Sarah his wife: [1]

'...a dwelling house with an oarchard or oarchards, & garden adjoyning thereunto, contayning about three acres... with all y^e^ fences, p'fitt, privilidges & appurtenances thereto belonging... being y^e^ house & oarchard formerly of y^e^ s^d^ Roger & now in y^e^ tenure & occupation of the said Roger Conant, and alsoe one acre of salt marsh lying upon the head of the milne river... yeilding & paying therefore... unto y^e^ s^d^ Lott Conant... one Indian corne on y^e^ first day of January if the same be lawfully demanded.'

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 3, leaf 29.

Lot Conant, who was born about 1624, either at Nantasket or in the 'great frame house' at Cape Ann, seems to have lived at Marblehead as early as 1657, and was counted one of the one hundred and fourteen householders of that town on May 25, 1674. It is probable that he moved to Beverly soon after the transfers of land made in 1666, and that he built a house for himself, since '*a dwelling house* and orchard containing about four acres with *an old house of his father*' are mentioned in the inventory of his estate, the 29:7 mo: 1674.

In his will Lot Conant directed that his wife Elizabeth should 'have the dwelling house and orchard for her life time'. She married, January 10, 1681/2, Andrew Mansfield of Lynn. The homestead later passed into the hands of another Lot Conant, a fact shown by the following deposition of Exercise Conant, dated March 28, 1710, when this youngest son of the Old Planter was seventy-two years of age: [1]

Exercise Conant testified that 'His father m^r^ Roger Conant late of Beverly... dec^d^ about Thirty two years past was Seized in his own right of fee, Dwelt upon & Improved a certain Farme and Tract of land lying & Scittuate in Beverly ... abutting on the Farme and lands of Henry Herrick... which ffarme and lands were possesed and Enjoyed after his said Fathers Death by his Eldest Son then liuing named Lot Conant during his life and is now possest by his Son Lott Conant the Deponant liued many years with his Said Father upon the Said Farme and the deviding line between m^r^ Conants and m^r^ Herricks Farmes So alwayes accounted and reputed was a certain brook Sometimes Denominated the

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 21, leaf 180.

brooke that comes out of the new Close[1] and the said Conant and Herrick respectiuely Improved the lands on Either Side of said brooke without molestation.'

Lot, the grandson, did not long remain on the homestead after the foregoing deposition was made, for in 1717 he was in Ipswich, and there he lived until his death in 1745. He left his Beverly estate to his son Jonathan, a currier, who lived in the old house. When he died, June 18, 1749, his son Jonathan became owner of the homestead, and he, the great-great-grandson of Roger, was probably the last bearing the Conant name to live in the Old Planter's dwelling. In 1783 he moved to Cherry Hill, and apparently he conveyed to Simon Lovett the homestead and the southern part of the thirty-two acres devised to Lot in 1666. The next possessor of the old house is indicated in the following:[2]

Simon Lovett, yeoman, for £236, sold to John Trow, yeoman, a 'certain piece of land containing about six acres... with a dwelling house and barn thereon standing, situate in Beverly, and the said land is bounded as followeth, viz, westerly on the Main Street leading from Essex Bridge to M[r] Olivers meeting house, beginning at the southwesterly corner of premises against land of Capt. Sim. Brown to land of David Fornis, thence northerly by said Fornis's land to land of Capt. Asa Woodberry, thence easterly by said Woodberry's land to land of said Sim. Brown, thence southerly by said Brown's land to the southwesterly corner of the premises against the sd street,

[1] A close is *an enclosed place*, according to the Century Dictionary.

'As two fruitfull Elms that spred
Amidst a Cloase with brooks environed
Ingender other Elms about their roots.'

Sylvester, translation of Du Bartas's 'Weeks,' II, 'The Colonies.'

[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 150, leaf 275.

the first mentioned bounds as the fence now stands all round the farme.' This deed bore the date, June 24, 1789.

There must have been a conveyance, missing in the records, by Mr. Trow to Simeon Brown, as it seems certain that Mr. Brown razed the house built by the Old Planter.

The other house, erected by Lot Conant about 1670 on the home property, was probably that named in a deed of Jonathan Conant to David Fornis, April 11, 1783:[1]

'... ten acres... bounded as follows westerly with the Country road about forty polls and six tenths southerly with land of John Trow about thirty poles easterly with land of the heirs of Joshua Herrick dec^{d} forty four poles and sixteen links which brings it in the range of Cap^{n} John Lovitts wall & northerly with land sold to Cap^{n} John Lovitt by a deed bearing even date with these presents to the Country road.'

Apparently another transfer of the Lot Conant property was the sale, October 1, 1792, by David Fornis to Simeon Brown of a piece of land containing eight acres and about eighty poles.[2] This land and the buildings upon it Simeon Brown conveyed, April 6, 1803, to Dr. Ingalls Kittredge, who had married Sarah, the daughter of Jonathan Conant.[3] Dr. Kittredge removed the old house and erected one of brick, which stood for many years near what came to be called Kittredge Crossing.

In the deed 'bearing even date with these presents' mentioned above Jonathan Conant sold to John Lovitt:

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 153, leaf 231.
[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 155, leaf 214.
[3] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 172, leaf 136.

'... a parcel of land containing four Acres & one hundred & five poles', bounded by the country road on the west, the land of the heirs of Ebenezer Francis on the north, John Lovitt's land on the east, and the tract conveyed to David Fornis — later the Kittredge property — on the south.[1]

Just north of John Lovitt's four acres was a lot of eight acres sold January 25, 1770, by Jonathan Conant to Ebenezer Francis. This Francis lot ran easterly from the country road to the land of Captain Henry Herrick, thence northerly to the bounds of the Trow estate, thence westerly to the land of Joseph Raymond, southerly to the road, and along the highway to the first-mentioned bounds.[2] May 20, 1774, Ebenezer Francis purchased from Joseph Raymond another piece of land, which contained sixty poles, and adjoined the eight-acre lot on the northerly side nearest the road.[3] The house standing on this ground appears to have become the home of Colonel Ebenezer Francis. The exact site of the dwelling has been a matter of doubt, since this section of North Beverly underwent great changes in the development of the Winslow estates. The Winslow property apparently included Balch, Conant, and Raymond land as well as a portion of the 'rail field'.[4] Within the limits of this tract Colonel Ebenezer Francis's house was formerly believed to have stood. It was placed by one student of Beverly history at 529

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 141, leaf 162; also Conant Papers, Beverly Historical Society Collections.

[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 148, leaf 232.

[3] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 155, leaf 70.

[4] The tract that bore for at least one hundred years the name, 'rail field', extended along the east side of Cabot Street from near its junction with Dodge Street southward to the northern boundary of the Lot Conant property.

Cabot Street; others identified it with the dwelling now numbered 510 Cabot Street, a little south of the Sidney Winslow estate and not long since moved across the highway. Recent investigations, however, seem to prove conclusively that the Revolutionary Colonel's home was the so-called Warren house, at 509 Cabot Street:[1]

Colonel Ebenezer Francis died in 1777, and the inventory of his estate included a house, barn, and about eight acres of land. He left a widow, Judith, and five children: Nancy, Rachel, Judith, Anna, and Ebenezer, Jr. Rachel conveyed her one-fifth interest to her mother, Judith Francis, and upon the death of the latter a short time afterwards this share passed to the five children of Colonel Ebenezer and Judith Francis. Nancy Francis died soon after her mother, and her share passed to her sisters and only brother.

Rachel Francis married John Low, and with her husband moved to Wells, Maine. In 1796, she conveyed to her brother, Ebenezer Francis, then of Boston, all of her interest in her father's and mother's estate. In the same year Judith and Anna Francis conveyed their interests to their brother. He sold the property, November 8, 1797, to his uncle, Colonel John Francis. Three days afterwards the latter sold the house and other buildings, with about half an acre of land, to Henry Creesy.[2] Mr. Creesy retained the property until March 24, 1807, when he conveyed it to John Laskey and Benjamin Creesy.[3] By a formal agreement made February 26, 1808, these two grantees held parts of the house and land in common. March 22, 1827, John Laskey's share went into the possession of Dr. Ingalls Kittredge,[4] who took a mortgage on Ben-

[1] For the facts as to the transfers of the Ebenezer Francis estate acknowledgement is due to Mr. Ulysses G. Haskell.

[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 162, leaf 265.

[3] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 181, leaf 89.

[4] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 247, leaf 254.

jamin Creesy's share the following December.[1] Apparently this mortgage was foreclosed, for the entire property came into the hands of Dr. Kittredge's son, another Ingalls Kittredge. The latter, September 15, 1859, conveyed it to Elizabeth Warren,[2] 'it being the same as deeded to Ingalls Kittredge, Sen. by Benj[n] Creesy & James Laskey'. After various transfers the original Raymond-Francis house and the half-acre of ground on which it stood passed into the ownership of Albert Warren.

The remainder of the Ebenezer Francis estate John Francis mortgaged to his nephew, Ebenezer Francis of Boston, 'being the same this day conveyed to me by Ebenezer Francis, excepting the House, Barn, & other buildings, with about half an acre of land, which I this day have conveyed to Henry Creesy'.[3] June 27, 1801, this lot was cleared of mortgage. It later became the property of Isaac Babson, who married the daughter of Colonel John Francis. He died in 1850, devising all of this estate to his niece, Betty Burton Babson. She married Israel Trask, 3d, and he conveyed the land to Benjamin N. Dodge in 1873. Mr. Dodge died in 1894, and his heirs conveyed the land to Charles W. Galloupe.[4]

Colonel John Francis had also become the owner of seventy poles of land which he bought of Jonathan Conant, June 1, 1782,[5] and also of twelve acres, purchased April 11, 1783.[6] The latter tract was bounded on the west by the country road, on the south by the land of John Francis, Elizabeth Raymond, and John Lovett, on the east by the Shaw estate, and on the north by Jonathan Conant's land. These two pieces of land seem to have been adjoining. The twelve-acre tract Colonel John Francis sold to George Dodge, June 7, 1783.[7] He also

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 247, leaf 254.
[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 595, leaf 11.
[3] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 162, leaf 265.
[4] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 1612, leaf 223.
[5] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 140, leaf 73.
[6] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 142, leaf 287.
[7] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 141, leaf 72.

sold one half of an acre to William Tarbell [1] and five acres to Isaac Woodberry.[1] The house built upon the Woodberry lot is said to have been that which later was numbered 517 Cabot Street. Also abutting upon the Francis estate on the north was the tract which Thomas Francis, brother of Ebenezer and John Francis, bought of Jonathan Conant and on April 4, 1792, sold to Peter Woodberry, 2d.[2] The latter conveyed it to Robert Edwards, Jr., January 13, 1796.[3]

Another lot belonging to Colonel John Francis and several tracts near it passed into the ownership of the Reverend Daniel Oliver, who was ordained as pastor of the North Beverly Church, October 3, 1787. He remained in Beverly about ten years, and his home is said to have been that later numbered 59 Conant Street. He seems, also, to have held considerable land for varying periods on Cabot Street:

The tract which the Reverend Daniel Oliver bought of Colonel John Francis, April 3, 1794, contained four and three-quarters acres,[4] and was bounded by land of John Francis, of John Lovett's heirs, and of the minister himself. Mr. Oliver also bought a house, barn, and fifty-two acres of land from Joshua Wyatt,[5] June 25, 1789. This had been conveyed to Mr. Wyatt by Peter and Benjamin Shaw,[6] whose father, Peter Shaw, had purchased tracts of Caleb Balch,[7] Edward Rayment,[8] and Benjamin Balch Lovett.[9] 'Shaw's Lane', now a

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 161, leaf 144.
[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 155, leaf 19.
[3] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 159, leaf 240.
[4] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 157, leaf 163.
[5] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 150, leaf 104.
[6] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 149, leaf 194.
[7] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 85, leaf 71.
[8] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 105, leaf 195.
[9] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 114, leaf 239.

part of Hill Street, lay within the Shaw estate. The Reverend Daniel Oliver sold the fifty-two-acre lot, April 11, 1794, to Captain Hugh Hill, the famous Revolutionary privateersman.

A third piece of land bought by the North Beverly minister contained three and three-quarters acres, and abutted upon his own land and also upon that of John Francis and of Richard Quartermas (or Quartermass). It was apparently a part of the eleven acres and eight poles which Jonathan Conant had sold to Quartermas, May 29, 1783.[1] The latter sold the tract to Daniel Oliver, June 27, 1789.[2] The remainder of the land which Quartermas bought of Jonathan Conant the former retained until March 15, 1792, when he sold it to James Burnham.[3] It then contained 'about eight acres', and there was standing upon it 'a Dwelling house, barn & other buildings'. In 1797 Mr. Burnham sold three acres to Abraham Caldwell.[4]

A fourth lot, containing six acres and sixteen poles, the Reverend Daniel Oliver bought, March 4, 1790, of John Low (who had married Rachel Francis). Mr. Low had come into possession of this land, April 1, 1785. It lay west of the present Cabot Street, opposite the lots which Mr. Oliver had bought of the Shaws and Richard Quartermas, east of 'land lately owned by Josiah Woodbery' (grandson of John Woodbery, the immigrant), and north of Benjamin Raymond's land. Apparently it was at or near what Beverly people later knew as the 'Hugh Hill place', where the privateersman's grandson built his house. The famous captain also bought, September 21, 1795, two acres and one hundred poles of Joseph Wood and Jonathan Conant (then of Amherst, New Hampshire), bounded by the road and Conant's own land, 'now improved by John Chapman', and also by land of Captain Hill, Samuel Dodge, and the heirs of Ebenezer Raymond.[5]

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 141, leaf 39.
[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 150, leaf 109.
[3] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 155, leaf 12.
[4] Beverly Historical Society Collections.
[5] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 164, leaf 95.

Captain Hugh Hill's house was later numbered 549 Cabot Street; its site was included in the Winslow property.

It must be remembered that the Lovett-Francis-Hill lands were mostly parts of Jonathan Conant's patrimony which had been a portion of the Old Planter's gift to Lot Conant in 1666. Not content with the tract extending from the 'brooke', the southern boundary of Roger Conant's estate, almost as far north as the present Hill Street, Jonathan Conant purchased, April 11, 1783, one hundred fourteen acres and one hundred five poles of land.[1] This was the farm of George Dodge, the great-great-grandson of another old planter, 'Farmer' William Dodge; it lay on the slope of what is now Cherry Hill, and only its eastern portion was within the Planters' grant. When in 1791 Jonathan Conant moved to Amherst (the part of that town later set off as Mount Vernon), New Hampshire, he sold this estate to Israel Thorndike,[2] 'being the whole of the farm which I bought of George Dodge excepting only one acre which I have sold to Lot Conant, 2d, containing also the land which I bought of Nathaniel Raymond'.

Jonathan Conant had bought sixteen acres of Nathaniel Raymond, 2d. the administrator of Benjamin Raymond's estate. The tract lay north of the Planters' grant.[1] The small lot sold to Lot Conant, 2d, came back into the possession of Jonathan Conant, and the latter conveyed it to Israel Thorndike.

The removal of Jonathan Conant to New Hampshire

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 155, leaf 148.
[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 166, leaf 174.

occasioned the loss to Beverly of one of her prominent citizens. He had been active in both civil and military affairs: a member of the Committee of Correspondence and Safety; a patriot responding to the Lexington alarm; a paymaster of the Beverly company in the regiment commanded by Colonel Ebenezer Francis and later by Colonel Tupper; a selectman of Beverly; and one of the town's first representatives after the adoption of the Constitution.

Besides the land which became the property of Jonathan Conant, Lot Conant had received other tracts from his father in 1666. In his will he left his estate 'to be whole and unbroken' until his children became of age or were married. He made a bequest of fifty pounds to each of his sons, and 'unto my sonn nathaniel the shop and tools over & above the rest'. This shop appears to have been on the west side of what is now Cabot Street, not far north of the Balch house. Later the land on which the shop stood must have passed into Nathaniel's hands, and still later must have been conveyed to Philip White when Nathaniel moved to Bridgewater, for Mr. White mortgaged to Sir William Phipps of Boston, March 22, 1687, 'all my messuage... containing six acres... which I lately purchased of Nathaniel Conant cordwainer'.[1]

Nathaniel also became owner of a part of the 'sixty acres of vpland neere Richard Dodges farme', given to Lot Conant in 1666 and described in the inventory of his estate as 'land not improved'.[2] This lot Nathaniel

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 8, leaf 71.

[2] Essex Probate Court Records, book 301, page 30.

Conant conveyed to his brother, January 27, 1691/2, as set forth in a deed in the possession of the Beverly Historical Society:

'Be it known... that I Nathaniel Conant of the town of Bridgewater in Plimoth Collony in New England... doe sett over unto my brother John Conant...ten Acers of land in the township of Beverly lying towards wenham nere the meddow usually Caled the greate Marsh bounded westerly and Southerly on William Dodg liuing by brimble hill his land Eastterly on the land of John Woodbery Northerly on the land of my two brothers John & Roger Conant & two Acers and halfe of meddow land... bounded on a greate spring Caled deadly hole or on the Woodberys Easterly against Freeborn Balch westerly northerly Against Samuel Balch Southerly Against my brother John Conant afores[d] his land'.

This deed, easily legible after the long years since its writing, bears the signature of Nathaniel Conant as grantor, and the names of Benjamin Balch and Samuel Conant as witnesses.

Besides acquiring Nathaniel's share of the unimproved land of Lot Conant, John, the latter's second son, had his own part of the tract 'neere Richard Dodges farme'. To this property he made several additions: a small lot bought of Freeborn Balch, February 24, 1714/15; and forty-one acres, released to him by his brothers, Lot, William, and Roger, in 1702/3.[1] The location and extent of his estate as well as its final disposition can best be learned from his will, drawn nine days before his death, September 30, 1724; it is quoted below in part:[2]

'I will to my well beloved son John Conant all that piece of

[1] Conant Papers, Beverly Historical Society Collections.

[2] Essex Probate Court Records, book 315, page 69.

Ground which he hath for some years improved Lying Northwesterly from my orchard containing six acres... and likewise y^e^ one half of my field lying southward of the Highway before my door that part of the field lying next to the land which my son Daniel bought of the widow Alice Woodbery.[1] Saving and accepting the breadth of one Rod and an half from the highway to the fence at the lower end of the field... att Brimble Hill swamp this rod and a half lying next to the westernmost half of the field I reserve for my son Benjamin, saving and accepting also a way and a place convenient for watering cattle to and att the spring which is in Johns part of the field....[2]

'I give likewise to my son John... the little orchard between his house and mine and one third part of y^e^ cider house and mill thereon standing. Saving and accepting a way from the field att the back part of my house along the end of my house to the high way which way I reserve to Benjamin a way six foot wide.

'I will to my well beloved son Daniel Conant the Land which his part of the house stands on, and the land about his part of the house beginning at the back part of the house and extending a line westerly untill you come against y^e^ fence on y^e^ eastward side of my old garden and from thence on a line as said fence stands to the highway... including the little garden and half y^e^ yard before his house I likewise give to Daniel the westernmost part of my old garden... my land next to Brimble Hill Pasture and Brimble Hill Swamp... containing about ten acres... the one half of my Barn... and the Barn floor to be for the both of Daniel and Benjamin in common and likewise one third part of my cider house and mill I give to Daniel.

'I will to my well beloved son Benjamin Conant my part of the house, together with the House I now Dwell in and the one half of the yard before the door... likewise the orchard...

[1] Alice Woodbery was then the widow of John Woodbery, Jr., son of Humphrey Woodbery.

[2] The 'way' still leads down to the spring.

also the one half of my field lying southward from the Highway before my door... also the other half of the Barn....'

John Conant also bequeathed his holding in the great marsh equally to his three sons named above; he stipulated that they should all freely use his well; and he gave to each 'Liberty of going over each others Part of land with Horse or foot or team as they shall have occasion att any time and at all times forever'. To his eldest child, Lot Conant, he gave little, since Lot had already received 'his full Part' of the estate. He had moved to Concord about 1716.

To his 'five well beloved daughters' John Conant bequeathed all his Indian Corn, his 'man', and all his cattle, sheep, swine, and household goods.

Despite the very evident intent of John Conant to deal fairly by each of the heirs and to preclude any misunderstandings as to their possessions, his will fails to make clear the exact location of the dwellings mentioned therein. They all stood on the northerly side of Dodge Street, or 'Dodges' Row', less than half a mile from the North Beverly railroad station. Apparently John Conant's homestead was taken down in 1829. The house of his son John was somewhat to the east and near 'Elwive Brook', a small stream subsequently dammed up, so that the water overflowed 'Conants' Meadow' and formed Norwood's Pond. Upon the bank of this brook, across the highway, the younger John had a fulling mill. He bought of Philip White two acres,[1] which the latter had purchased in 1687.[2] John Conant bequeathed his house to his son, another John Conant, a godly man who was a deacon in the Congregational

[1] Conant Papers, Beverly Historical Society Collections.

[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 8, leaf 71.

Church. The story is told that while getting in a load of hay one Saturday night, Deacon Conant discovered that the sun had already set. Sunday had begun, when for man to work was sinful! Quickly he unyoked his oxen and left the hay in the field until Monday.[1]

The house which had been the home of Deacon John Conant and his father remained the property of their descendants until 1851. The building stood until 1884, when Charles E. Riva came into possession of it and took it down.

A third house on the same estate fell to the share of Daniel and Benjamin Conant, as set forth in the will of their father, John Conant. Apparently they occupied it together until 1728, when Benjamin moved away from Beverly. In April, 1727, he sold to his brother John,[2] five and one-half acres of land, and about a year later he conveyed to the same grantee nine and one-half acres, bounded by land of Jonathan Dodge, and that of Daniel and John Conant; he also sold one half of an acre of orchard.[3] He then moved to Dudley, Massachusetts, where one of his descendants, Hezekiah Conant, became a benefactor of the town in many ways. He gave new buildings and equipment to the academy; and after the destruction by lightning of the old church on Dudley Hill, the tall spire of which had been a landmark for miles around, he erected a new edifice as a 'Roger Conant Memorial'. A window of this church depicts the Old Planter as a mediator in the controversy at

[1] Conant Genealogy, page 213.
[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 1134, leaf 204.
[3] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 58, leaf 100.

Cape Ann between the fishermen of that place and the colonists of Plymouth. Hezekiah Conant's country home in Dudley he named Budleigh Hall, to keep in remembrance the pioneer's love for his native town in England.

Daniel Conant made his home in Beverly all his life, an honored citizen who represented the town in the General Court two years. He added to his holdings by the purchase of fourteen acres from Samuel Woodbery and others,[1] twelve acres from John and Richard Woodbery,[1] and six and one-half acres from Daniel Raymond.[2] In 1750 he sold to his son Daniel 'one third of a grist mill on Elwive Brook, near the road which leads from the house of John Conant to the house of Elisha Dodge'.[3] The younger Daniel seems to have continued to live on Dodges' Row. He bought, April 18, 1753, one sixth of the grist mill of Jacob Dodge,[4] and with his brother Nathaniel made many conveyances of real estate:

These include their joint purchase, January 18, 1754, of John Dodge's homestead; [5] the sale of nine acres and one hundred fifteen poles of land to Joshua Cleaves; [6] also the sale, June 4, 1761, of various parcels of the estate of Lieutenant Daniel Conant; [7] February 27, 1765, seven acres and fifty-six poles to John Conant; [8] December 15, 1767, forty-three acres (partly in Wenham) to Benjamin Raymond; [9] March 1, 1768,

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 39, leaf 231, and book 37, leaf 42.
[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 58, leaf 102.
[3] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 125, leaf 248.
[4] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 125, leaf 247.
[5] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 125, leaf 21.
[6] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 106, leaf 10.
[7] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 125, leaf 18.
[8] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 117, leaf 258.
[9] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 117, leaf 252.

five acres to Benjamin Raymond 'together with our part or share, viz.: one-half part of the Grist and Saw Mill that stands on the premises';[1] March 30, 1768, twenty-one acres and one hundred ten poles of land to Deacon John Conant;[2] and on the same day five acres to Lot Conant,[3] and two parcels of land to Ebenezer Francis.[4]

It will be noted that Ebenezer Francis bought these two tracts before his purchase of the eight-acre lot fronting on the present Cabot Street, and in the house that stood on one of them he may have lived for a time. The larger piece of land, containing fourteen acres and twenty-three poles, he sold to Silas Waldren.[5] It was bounded by the property of John Dodge, Samuel, Lot, and Deacon John Conant, and lay south of Dodge Street. In the conveyance to Waldren, March 17, 1777, no mention is made of the barn, described in the earlier deed as standing on the fourteen-acre tract. The other lot contained 'One Acre and Sixty-nine Poles' and 'had a Dwelling house on it'.[6] It lay north of the highway and west of the land of Lot and Samuel Conant. This property Ebenezer Francis sold to John Conant,[7] to whom also he conveyed 'the one half of the sider mill which stands on Lot Conants land and one half of the cyder wheel (?) which half did belong to the abovesaid Francis northward of the highway'.

It was the product of this mill, apparently, concerning which Ebenezer Francis often sent messages during his stay at camp: 'I send home my Syder Kegg by mr Retire Trasks Team & Should be glad you would send it full of Syder as quick as you

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 117, leaf 252.

[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 123, leaf 149.

[3] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 121, leaf 250, and Conant Papers, Beverly Historical Society Collections.

[4] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 121, leaf 252.

[5] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 136, leaf 171.

[6] Conant Papers, Beverly Historical Society Collections.

[7] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 153, leaf 204.

have an oppurtunity'. Later, 'If you Should have an oppurtunity to Send a Barrel of Syder Send it to medford'.[1]

The transfers of land made by Daniel and Nathaniel Conant were in preparation for the latter's removal to Alfred, Maine, where he was one of the earliest settlers and became the largest landowner. He gave a piece of ground to the community 'to set the meeting house and the school house on'.

A contemporary of Daniel and Nathaniel Conant was Lot, the youngest son of the John Conant who built the most easterly of the Conant houses on Dodges' Row — that later razed by Mr. Riva. Lot lived farther west, and his land adjoined the lots purchased by Ebenezer Francis, with whom he shared in the possession of the cider-mill noted above. He bought of his brother two acres and one hundred two poles of land, bounded by the property of Ebenezer Francis, Samuel Conant, and John Conant;[2] and he purchased of Samuel Conant nine acres, in 1772.[2] Like his brother, John Conant, Lot was a deacon of the Second Church at North Beverly.

A part of Deacon Lot Conant's estate went into the possession of William Dodge. A deed, drawn in 1825, but not recorded until 1912, released the title of Lot's daughter Nabby and her husband, David Perkins, to a portion of the Conant property.[3] This conveyance is said to have been the only one made of the tract in question since the original deed, as the land passed from

[1] Letters of Ebenezer Francis to his wife, Beverly Historical Society Collections.

[2] Conant Papers, Beverly Historical Society Collections.

[3] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 2129, page 311.

father to son. An old house stood on one of the lots in 1825, perhaps the earliest Conant house on Dodge Street. It was taken down in 1829, and the best of its timbers, with some of another Conant dwelling that had stood near it, were used in the construction of a new house. Here Andrew Dodge lived for nearly eighty-seven years. The house, later the property of his son, Frederick Dodge, a former Mayor of Beverly, was partly destroyed by fire in September, 1928.

Lot and John Conant had a brother Samuel, who, like them, was a deacon of the North Beverly Church. His land was adjacent to theirs, but he sold a part of it in 1772,[1] and made his home farther west on Dodge Street. His house became the property of his daughter Hannah and her husband, Cornelius Batchelder, and passed into the hands of their descendants, in whose possession it remained for some time.

Thus far has been traced in part the land which Lot, the son of the Old Planter, received in 1666. Lot Conant had a son Roger, a little fellow but three years old when his father died. He moved to Concord in 1719/20, whither his nephew Lot had already moved in 1716. In 1721 he sold a portion of his land in Beverly:[2]

'... for Ninty pounds... paid by John Conant Weaver Danniel Conant mason & Benjamin Conant Taylor... a parcel of fresh meddow... being a part of the great marsh so Called & being bounded Northwesterly by meddow of John Conant Southwesterly & Southeasterly by y^e^ upland of Freeborn Balch & Northeasterly by y^e^ upland of Samuell Woodbery & Joseph Crecy & partly by meddow of Hannah Woodbery'.

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 136, leaf 172.

[2] Conant Papers, Beverly Historical Society Collections.

The Conants living on Dodge Street in this way became the owners of Roger's portion in that section as well as his brother Nathaniel's. Roger Conant, four years after he left Beverly, conveyed his dwelling house and barn in his native town to Jeremiah Buckman,[1] November 10, 1724.

Not only to Lot, his oldest son born in the New World, did the Old Planter give a portion of his grant, November 20, 1666. On the same day he made a generous gift to his youngest son:[2]

'I Roger Conant... for the love and naturall affection which I have & beare unto my son Exercise Conant... do freely give ...unto the s^d^ Exercise Conant forty five acres of upland... being bounded on the northeast with a highwaye, on the south west with the land of William Dodg Jun'r, on the south east alsoe with William Dodg Jun'r, & on y^e^ north west with som land of me y^e^ said Roger Conant, and about three acres and a halfe of fresh meddow lyeing in Wenham great meddow, bounded on y^e^ south with Wenham river soe caled, on y^e^ west with y^e^ meddow of Benjamin Balch, on y^e^ east with y^e^ Woodberyes & on y^e^ north with y^e^ upland: alsoe one acre and a quarter lying at the great pond marsh... as it now lyes bounded betweene Benjamin Balch his marsh on the one side & y^e^ marsh of Peeter Woodbery on y^e^ other side'.

Apparently Exercise Conant built a house upon his land, where he lived until May 25, 1695. On that date he conveyed 'unto my cousin John Conant... my now dwelling house orchard & field adjoyning & Barn y^e^ Whole containing about ten acres of land... bounded easterly and Southerly with y^e^ land of William Dodg,

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 44, leaf 155.

[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 3, leaf 30.

westerly & Northerly partly against Joshua Wallis his four acres & partly against y^e^ two roads'.[1]

Soon after this transfer of property Exercise Conant went to Windham, Connecticut. His cousin John Conant retained ownership of the house until September 6, 1715, when he sold it to the Reverend John Chipman:[2]

'I John Conant for y^e^ Sum of one hundred & ninety & seven pounds... do confirm unto John Chipman twelve acres of land bounded as followeth, viz: North Easterly partly by y^e^ Town road or highway & partly by y^e^ land of Jabez Baker Northwesterly partly by y^e^ land of s^d^ Baker & partly by y^e^ Country road Comonly known by y^e^ name of Boston road Southwesterly & Southeasterly by y^e^ land of Capt. William Dodge'.

Jabez Baker had come into possession of 'Joshua Wallis his four acres'. Mr. Wallis married Abiah, the daughter of Exercise Conant, and they lived in a house built upon this land. March 10, 1695/6, they sold the house and land to Jonathan Baker;[3] he conveyed the property to Cornelius Baker;[4] and Cornelius Baker conveyed the estate to his son, Jabez Baker, April 25, 1706.[5] Later the land and buildings passed into the ownership of Joseph Herrick, who, April 1, 1729, sold his estate to William Trow. Mr. Trow opened the house to the public as a tavern, and it remained an inn under several landlords until 1773. In 1787 Moses Brown and Israel Thorndike

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 22, leaf 192. The two roads were the present Cabot and Conant Streets. The latter highway had the name in colonial times of 'Boston Path' or 'Boston Road'. Travelers from Newbury or Ipswich usually went over what is now Cherry Hill and through Danvers to a road that led to Boston and avoided the marshes nearer the coast. In the early part of the Revolutionary War Beverly was the principal seaport from which arms, ammunition, and West India goods could be taken to Cambridge as supplies for the Continental Army encamped there.

[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 30, leaf 2.

[3] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 11, leaf 101.

[4] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 29, leaf 22.

[5] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 27, leaf 70.

bought the property when they, with the Cabot Brothers and others, began to develop the cotton-manufacturing industry. In 1793 they sold it to Joseph Chipman, who had already become the owner of the so-called Chipman house. There were no buildings upon the lot when it was included in the inventory of Mr. Chipman's estate in 1817. It is said that on this lot on the southwesterly corner of what are now Cabot and Conant Streets, French troops camped for the night, when they were on their way back to their own country after giving us aid in the Revolutionary War.

The dwelling known as the Chipman house would perhaps more properly be called the Conant-Chipman house, since it is possibly the oldest building in existence to-day that was erected by a member of the Conant Family. Perhaps even more properly it might be called the Conant-Chipman-Woodbury house, for its present owner, Mr. Frank Woodbury, has restored the building, and has taken great pains to preserve the characteristics of a colonial dwelling. Quite possibly it underwent alterations during its long tenancy by the Reverend John Chipman, who was the pastor of the North Beverly Church for nearly sixty years.

This worthy minister was five feet, eight inches in height and 'of full habit'. Perhaps no more illuminating description of his forceful personality can be found than in the epitaph upon his gravestone in the North Beverly Cemetery:

'The reverend and truly venerable John Chipman, A.M.; a graduate of Harvard College, and for more than fifty-nine years the faithful pastor of the second parish in Beverly; — a man eminent for solid powers of mind and useful learning, and particularly distinguished by his acquaintance with the Scrip-

tures; serious and pungent in preaching the word; penetrated with love of the religion of Jesus, and by his own example teaching others its precepts; in presiding over the church, vigilant and upright; to all the flock, benevolent and just; embracing from his soul the good of all sects; in his family an example of every Christian virtue; far from being inflated by prosperity; most patient in adversity'.

It was a large family that the Reverend John Chipman raised in the old Conant house — fifteen children, thirteen of whom lived to maturity. In his will the minister bequeathed his real estate to them and to his grandchildren. The lot and buildings were then appraised at two hundred and thirteen pounds. Through conveyances made by the heirs of their interests in the estate,[1] it came entirely into the hands of Joseph Chipman. He established a tannery on the lot north of the house, and it was probably to make way for this business that he took down the building which had been a tavern. He lived in the Conant-Chipman house until his death in the spring of 1817, and the estate then descended to his two children, John Hale Chipman and Eliza Maria Chipman. After various transfers of the property Miss Chipman became the sole owner. In 1888 she conveyed to Edward B. Lovett the land and house, reserving certain rooms for her own use. The rest of the house and the land passed into the possession of Mr. Frank Woodbury in 1888. Miss Chipman died in 1890, and June 24, 1891, Mr. Woodbury gained control of the entire estate.[2]

The house has since had additions at the rear and on

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 136, leaves 173 to 175.

[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 1319, page 198.

the south side, but the main part of the building has remained unchanged except for necessary repairs. The roof has a notably fine cornice, and the doorway, with fluted pilasters and a broken arch pediment, reminds one of the famous 'Pineapple House' in Salem. Indeed, the ornament between the members of the broken arch may well have been a pineapple originally, a token of hospitality. At present, however, an acorn fills the space. The door itself is heavily paneled and has an interesting knocker.

White-paneled woodwork, entirely hand-hewn, lends dignity and charm to the roomy interior of the house. The parlor has one wall completely paneled, and its other three walls have paneled wainscot. The windows have deep window-seats, and fitting the spaces between them are closets of varying width, with doors also paneled. The other rooms of the original house have the same fine carving on the doors and chimney-pieces and even on the summer-beams. Leading to the chambers is a beautiful stairway, its step-ends carved and its balustrade with graceful spindles and newel-posts.

There are other characteristics of colonial days: hinges, both of the H and of the H-and-L types; floors of boards eighteen inches or more in width; wide fireplaces, and in the kitchen, a big brick oven. It is indeed fortunate that this interesting New England dwelling has been preserved, after standing the more than two hundred and fifty years since Exercise Conant received the land from the Old Planter.

The most northerly portion of Exercise Conant's

CONANT-CHIPMAN HOUSE

Now owned by Mr. Frank Woodbury

634 Cabot Street, Beverly, Massachusetts

forty-five acres given to him in 1666 he sold to Peter Woodbery, April 1, 1690,[1] and the remainder he conveyed to Samuel Herrick.[2] He received twenty acres more through his father's will, 'Lying between the head of the rails and Isaac Hull his ground, upon the right hand of the country road leading from Beverly to Wenham', and this land he released to John Balch (of the third generation from the Old Planters), in 1683/4.[3] He also owned land in Wenham, which he sold to William Elliott, and a tract of seven acres on Dodge Street west of the other Conant estates there, which he conveyed, January 27, 1691/2, to 'John Conant, carpenter'.[4]

With the account of the generous gifts made by the Old Planter to two of his sons, Lot and Exercise, it seems strange to find no record showing that Roger Conant bestowed any of his property upon another son, his namesake, born in Salem in 1626. In the Book of Grants is the following: '21:11:1639 Granted to Roger Conant the son of Roger Connant being the first borne Child in Salem the som of twenty acres of land'. The younger Roger was living in Marblehead, where Lot Conant resided, when the latter and Exercise Conant received land from their father in 1666. Roger, Junior, had served as one of the selectmen of the town, an honor conferred only upon those highly esteemed by their fellow-men. That he was a good man in private as well as in public life, the pathetic record in a Bible once belonging to him bears witness: 'The 4 day of May 1672

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 8, leaf 169.
[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 13, leaf 204.
[3] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 28, leaf 90.
[4] Conant Papers, Beverly Historical Society Collections.

being Saturday, my dere littel sone Samuel Conant dyed. The 15 day of June 1672 being Saturday — my dere, dere, dere husband Roger Conant dyed.' He left no will, nor are there any papers showing the administration of his estate. Shortly after his death his son John received the following gift from the Old Planter: [1]

'I Roger Conant for divers good causes & considerations me thereunto moveing, especially for the love & naturall afection I have & beare unto my kinsman John Conant, house carpenter... do give... unto the said John Conant... a certaine p'cell of land containing twenty acres... scittuat... neere Wenham greate pond & bounded with y^e^ s^d^ pond northwesterly and with the highway or contrey roade on y^e^ south & soe round to y^e^ northeast as y^e^ land lyes & northerly with y^e^ land of y^e^ s^d^ Roger Conant & westerly with y^e^ land of Benjamin Balch'.

And in his will the Old Planter bequeathed 'unto my grandchild John Conant sonne of Roger Conant ten acres of land adjoining to his twenty acres by the greate pond side'. This John Conant moved to Marblehead about 1688, where he may have held property once his father's. In addition to his trade as a carpenter, he had a fishing business. The inventory of his estate at the time of his death indicates that he had apparently amassed considerable property for those days, appraised at nearly eleven hundred pounds. He had bought of William Williams one acre and three hundred poles of land in Beverly; [2] of John Bennett, 'one half acre of upland with the dwelling house thereon standing'; [2] and of Thomas Tuck, 'one acre of upland and one

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 4, leaf 50.

[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 5, leaf 20.

acre of meddow'.[1] These tracts seem to have been outside of the Planters' grant. The land which he received from his grandfather, Roger Conant, is described in a conveyance, January 11, 1688/9, by 'John Conant formerly of Beverly now of Marblehead' to Philip English of Salem: '30 acres between Beverly and Wenham, bounded west by Wenham Pond, south and east by the county road, north by common land, with the building thereon'.[2] This was a mortgage which John Conant afterwards redeemed, and he retained in Beverly until he died in 1738, real estate appraised at nearly one hundred and fifty pounds. There were no children to inherit this property. One half of his Marblehead estate he willed to his 'Cousin John Conant Jr. of Beverly', and he made bequests varying from ten to fifty pounds. His gravestone and that of his wife are still to be seen in Marblehead.

Another grandchild the Old Planter named in his will: 'more I giue unto my grandchild Joshua Conant seventeen acres of land lying by the south side of the great marsh neere wenham and bounding unto the land of peeter woodbery'. This Joshua Conant's father, also named Joshua, had been a sea captain, who is recorded as living in Marblehead in 1657, and who died in England in 1659, seven years before the Old Planter gave land to Lot and Exercise Conant. The second Joshua, whom his grandfather remembered in his will, was an only child. He did not long retain his land in Beverly, for, December 20, 1684, he sold to Freeborn Balch:[3]

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 5, leaf 13.

[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 8, leaf 138.

[3] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 8, leaf 146.

'... a certaine p'cel of upland ground containing seventeen acres... bounded easterly by land of Peter Woodbery and the marsh which was formerly Mr. Conants, westerly by the land that was sold by Exercise Conant unto John Conant Sen'r, southerly by Jebocco Roade, and northerly by the land of Benjamin Balch Sen'r, which is all that parcell of land given unto Joshua Conant, by the last will and testament of his grandfather Mr. Roger Conant'.

Joshua Conant later took part in the stirring events of 1689, when the news that William and Mary had landed in England encouraged the colonists to depose Sir Edmund Andros. That the latter had plotted with France was attested in a statement made by Joshua Conant:[1]

'Joshua Conant testifieth: That he being Commander of the Ketch Thomas and Mary of Salem, he was taken by three French Ships off from Torbay near Cansir upon Tuesday the 17th of September last, two of which were Ships of War the other a Merchantman, and being put on board the Admiral viz the Lumbuscado and therein carried to Port Royal a Prisoner. Mr. Mero told me that the French on board told him that there was ten sail of them ships of war came out in conpany together from France, and that they... were bound to Boston in New England and that Sir E. A. had sent to the French King for them and that the Countrey was to be delivered up into their hands; but hearing that Sir E. A. was taken and now held should not proceed at present but threatened what they would do next summer'.

And from 'Joshua Conant his book in the year 1707' comes still further proof of his activity. The following is one of many entries in a sort of diary which gives an account of his adventures:[2]

[1] Conant Genealogy, quotation from Andres Tracts, vol. 1, page 204.
[2] Conant Papers, Beverly Historical Society Collections.

'Agust y^e^ 20 Being wensday we rallied the army to go over the river Y^e^ Sun about an hour high the first boats landed the boats returned for y^e^ rest they had gone but little way before the enemy fired upon them out of an ambush... our army drove y^e^ enemy about two miles we had 3 men wounded but through the goodnes of God only one killed'. In a second engagement the same day 'we drove them before us y^e^ fight very smart for the time that it held we had five men killed upon the spot fore Indians one Englishman and four more wounded'.

Early in the eighteenth century Joshua Conant moved to Eastham, to a part of the town later set off as Truro, in Massachusetts. There all records of him end.

Another legacy of the Old Planter was that to his son Exercise of one hundred and forty acres 'lyeing neer adjoining vnto the new towne of Dunstable a part of two hundred acres granted me by the General Court', and also ten acres 'next adjoining vnto his p'sont home lott ... two acres of marsh at the south end of the great pond by wenham... also my swamp at the head of the railes which is yet undivided betwixt me and Benjamin Balch adjoining vnto William Dodgeses swamp'. The land near Dunstable Roger Conant had received June 7, 1671, after the denial by the General Court of his plea that the name of the town be changed. His written petition is in the Massachusetts Archives:

'The umble peticion of Roger Conant of Basriuer, alias Beuerly, who haue bin a planter in New England fortie eight years and vpward, being one of the first if not the very first, that resolued and made good my settlement vnder God, in matter of plantation w^th^ my family in this colony of the massachuset bay, and haue bin instrumentall, both for the founding and carring on of the same,... Now my umble sute and re-

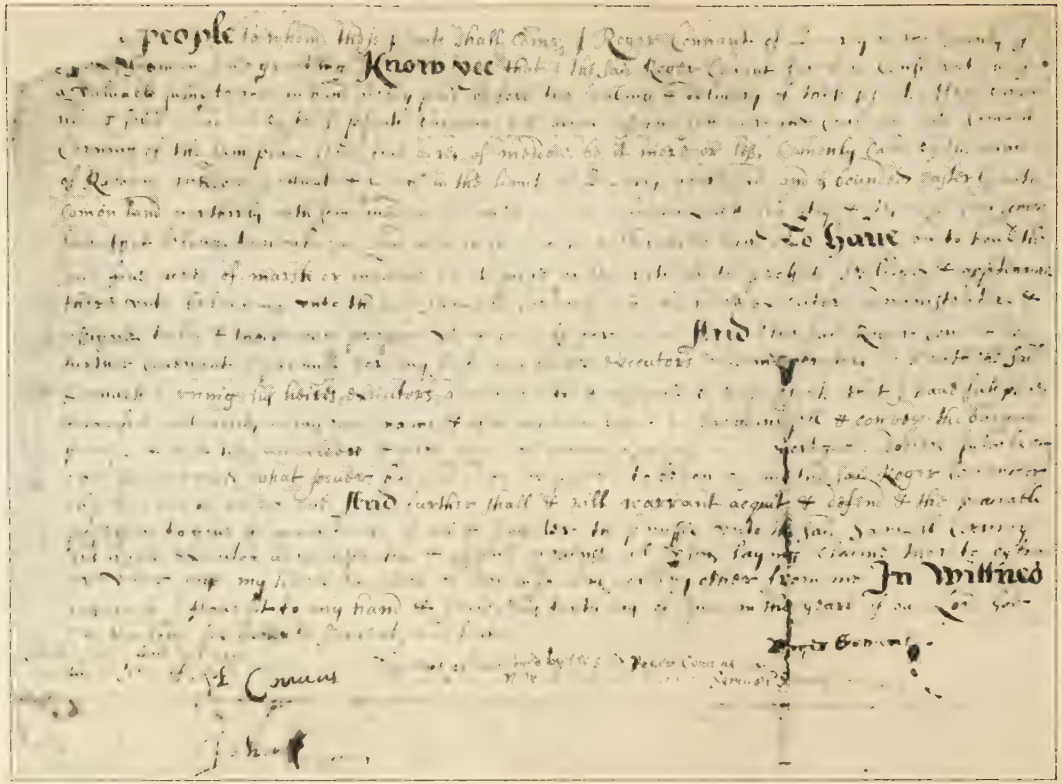
quest is vnto this honorabel Court onlie that the name of our towne or plantation may be altered or changed from Beuerly and be called Budleigh. I haue two reasons that haue moved me to this request. The first is the great dislike and discontent of many of our people for this name of Beuerly, because (wee being but a small place) it hath caused on us a constant nick-name of beggarly, being in the mouths of many, and no order was giuen or consent by the people heere to their agent for any name vntill they were shure of being a towne granted in the first place. Secondly: I being the first that had house in Salem (and neuer had any hand in naming either that or any other towne) and myself with those that were then with me, being all from the western part of England, desire this western name of Budleigh, a market towne of Deuonsheer and neere vnto the sea as we are in this place and where myself was borne. Now in regard to our firstnesse and antiquity in this soe famous a collony, we should umblie request this littell priuelidg with your fauors and consent, to giue this name abouesaid vnto our towne. I neuer yet made sute or request vnto the General Court for the least matter, tho' I thinke I might as well haue done, as many others haue, who haue obtained much without hassard of life or preferring the publick good before their own interest, which I praise God I haue done....'

The signatures of thirty-four men followed that of Roger Conant, with a statement of their desire to have the name of the town changed. Below the list was the following:

'June 1, 1671. The magistrates having perused and considered this request, see no cause to alter the name of the place as desired, their brethren the deputies hereto consenting

'Edward Rawson Secretary
'William Torrey Cleric

'Consented to by the deputyes'



REPRODUCTION OF ORIGINAL ROGER CONANT DOCUMENT

A week later the General Court granted Roger Conant two hundred acres on the consideration of his being 'a very ancient planter'. This land, not laid out until three years afterwards, was described as 'a parcel of land in the wilderness, on the eastern side of the Merrimack River'. In the inventory of the Planter's estate it is mentioned as '200 acres lying at Dunstable not improved'.[1]

Although the inhabitants of Beverly to-day are no doubt content that the name of their dwelling-place remains that of the old English town with its famous minster, they can sympathize with Roger Conant and can realize how keen was his disappointment when the General Court refused his request. The land at Dunstable was but a poor return to the man of vision, who had held fast to his purpose when faced with defeat, and had inspired others with his courage and faith; who, despite the assumption by another of his position of leadership, had still held fast, and with tolerance and whole-hearted devotion to an ideal had done his unobtrusive but effectual part in bringing the great adventure to a successful outcome.

Among the many documents in the collections of the Beverly Historical Society that bear the name of Conant is one original paper signed by the Old Planter in his own hand. It is reproduced herewith.

From the records the sum total of Roger Conant's estate in Beverly exceeded two hundred acres:

Given to his son Lot in 1666..... 104 acres
Given to his son Exercise in 1666..... 50 acres (nearly)

[1] Dunstable is a town not far northwest of Lowell. Its northern boundary is the Massachusetts-New Hampshire State Line.

Given to John, son of Roger, Jr., in 1673.....	20 acres
Inventory of real estate, 24th 9 mo 1679.....	47 acres
'more land sold to Elizabeth Conant not paid for'.....	? acres.....£40
'more land'.....	?.....£1
Share of sales of land by Old Planters.....	5 acres, or more
Land sold to Samuel Corning.....	5 acres

THE LAND OF JOHN WOODBERY

Another Old Planter was John Woodbery, who came from Somersetshire, England, about 1624. His descent from an ancient family has been traced by Robert S. Rantoul, who is authority for the assertion that 'for eight full centuries, if not for a thousand years, the name of Woodbury maintained an unbroken hold upon the soil of Devon'. As early as 1085 the name Wodeberie occurs in the Doomsday Book, and a family estate has been traced in Somerset since 1304.

John Woodbery, the immigrant, came to New England four years earlier than John Endecott. Perhaps no clearer understanding of his position among the planters of the North Shore of Massachusetts Bay can be gained than by a consideration of the deposition made by his son Humphrey in 1680:[1]

'Feb. 16, 1680/1. Humphrey Woodbery, Beverly, aged 72, testifies That when I lived in Somersetshire, England, I remember that my father, John Woodberye (since deceased) did about 56 yeares agoe remove for New England & I then traveled with him as farr as Dorchester & I understood that my father came to new England by order of a company caled Dorchester company (among whom M^r^ white of Dorchester in England was an active Instrument) & that my father and the company with him brought cattle & other things to Cape Ann for plantation work and there built an house & Kept their

[1] The Mason heirs laid claim to the territory between the Naumkeag and Merrimac Rivers. Beverly memorialized the king of England, Richard Brackenbury, William Dixey, and Humphrey Woodbery testifying. It was not until 1746 that the Mason claimants abandoned their efforts to include Beverly in their grant.

cattell & sett up fishing & afterwards some of them removed to a neck of land since caled Salem: After about three yeares absence my s^d^ father returned to England & made us acquainted with what settlement they had made in new England & that he was sent back by some that intended to settle a plantation about 3 leagues west of Cape Ann; to further this designe after about halfe a yeares stay in England my father returned to new England and brought me with him: wee arrived in the place now caled Salem in or about the month of June, 1628: where wee found severall p'sons that said they were servants to y^e^ Dorchester company & had built another house for them at Salem, besides that at Cape Ann... when wee setled the Indians never then molested us in our improvem^ts^ or sitting downe either on Salem or Beverly Side of the ferry, but shewed themselves very glad of our company & came & planted by us & often times came to us for shelter saying they were afraid of theire enemy Indians up in the contry: and wee did shelter them when they fled to us: & wee had theire free leave to build & plant where wee have taken up lands: the same yeare or the next after wee came to Salem wee cutt hay for the cattell wee brought over on that side of the ferry now caled Beverly: & have Kept our possession there ever since by cutting hay or thatch or timber & boards & by laying out lotts for tillage: & some time after building & dwelling heere, where I with others have lived about 40 yeares'.

John Woodbery and his son Humphrey lived for a few years in what is now Beverly Cove, where William, a younger brother of John, also settled and built the first house of which we have record in the present limits of Beverly. As soon as the Old Planters received their grant of land on Bass River Side, John Woodbery erected a house on the section which he had chosen, and there he probably lived the rest of his life.

The title 'Father' accorded to this Old Planter quite possibly had no reference to his age, since he was but little more than sixty years old when he died, but rather may have been bestowed upon him because of his prominence in the community. He was chosen one of the selectmen in 1637, and held that office thereafter as long as he lived, being present at every meeting of the board until December 3, 1641. He was a member of Governor Endecott's first Council; he became a freeman in 1631; he was deputy to the General Court from 1635 to 1638; he was appointed to serve on the committee of six to view the lands beyond Forest River, when it was proposed to erect a college there; [1] he was one of the four men who each gave a bushel of corn to 'Debora Holmes refused Land (being a maid)', as it 'would be a bad president to keep hous alone'; he surveyed bounds and his name occurs repeatedly in the Book of Grants in the orders to lay out lots for the inhabitants of Salem. His signature appears on many of the records, written in a clear, bold hand. Probably his greatest service to the colony was his journey to England, as the first American envoy, a mission for which his fellow-townsmen would never have singled him out, had he not possessed discretion, energy, enthusiasm in the work of colonizing a new land, and faith in its ultimate success. Like Roger Conant, he conformed to the Separatist ideals, and with his wife Agnes helped to found the first church in Salem.

It is most unfortunate that no land conveyances of John Woodbery can be discovered. His widow, August

[1] The project of founding a college in Salem was abandoned when Boston became the seat of government in the province of Massachusetts Bay.

1, 1660, sold to George Corwin three quarters of an acre of land and a small dwelling house, situated near the meeting house in Salem, at what is now 226 Essex Street. This disposed of the earliest home of John Woodbery in the colony of Naumkeag. Of his bequests of property in Beverly there is no record, since his will was never probated. It is certain that he made one, because there is an account of its presentation in court, February 8, 1642/3; but no inventory accompanied the will, and the court requested the widow to produce one. Evidence is lacking that she ever complied with the order.

Besides his son Humphrey, born in England about 1609, the records mention three children of John Woodbery — Hannah, Abigail, and Peter. It seems certain that he also had a son John, born about 1630. No record appears of the younger John Woodbery's birth or baptism, but this is not strange, since the lists of baptisms and memberships in the Salem Church are available only as far back as 1635. There is repeated mention, after the death of the Old Planter in 1641, of a 'John Senior', whose wife was 'Sister Elizabeth'.[1] In April, 1670, he mortgaged land which presumably was a part of his share in his father's estate:[2]

'Indenture... betweene John Woodbery of Salem in New England, marrenor, of the one pt & John Williams of the citty of Bristoll, march't, of y^e^ other pt witnesseth: that the s^d^ John Woodbery, for... y^e^ sume of Sixty pounds eighteene shillings

[1] So called, perhaps, to distinguish her from Elizabeth, wife of Humphrey Woodbery, and from Elizabeth, wife of Humphrey's son, another John Woodbery.

[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 3, leaf 117.

... hath sett over unto y^e^ said John Williams... all y^t^ peice or p'cell of land or wood ground, containing by estimation forty acres... scittuat... neere Basse river... and adjoineth to certaine lands & heriditaments of Benjamin Balch of Salem husbandman on the east side & certaine other lands in y^e^ possession & occupation of Henry Herricke on the west side... from the date hearof for & dureing the full time & terme of one thousand yeares... paying therefore... the yearly rent of one penny, at the feast of St Michaell the Arch Angell... p'vided ... that the s^d^ John Woodbery doe pay or cause to be paid unto the s^d^ John Williams the full sume of sixty four pounds ten shillings at or upon the first daye of Maye w^ch^ shal be in y^e^ yeare of our Lord God one thousand Six hundred seaventy & one, at the comon place of audience, caled the Tolsey of Bristoll,[1] scittuat in Corne Street... according to y^e^ condicon of one obligation beareing even date with these pr'sents, wherein he y^e^ s^d^ Jonn Woodbery is become bound to y^e^ s^d^ John Williams, in y^e^ penal sume of one hundred & twenty pounds...'

'The above mortgage is entered as a caution, the saide John Woodbery not being pr'sent to acknowledge his act therein'.

'29:4:71 Sam^ll^ Balch son of Benj Balch... testifieth that on y^e^ 28th of June last past, John Foott of Boston... by vertue of a letter of attornie & a mortgage w^ch^ he shewed was forfitted to John Williams... by John Woodbery, took possession for y^e^ use of y^e^ said John Williams of all y^t^ peec or p'sell of land containing forty ackers (described as above) and that he saw him drive a stak in said land marked I W 1671'.[2]

This tract may have been that mentioned in Roger Conant's deed to his son Lot as 'the land of the Woodberyes'. Certainly in 1670 John Woodbery, Sr., had a

[1] The Tolsey was a place where merchants usually assembled and commercial courts were held, according to the Century Dictionary.

'The place under it is their Tolsey or Exchange, for the meeting of their merchants'. — Defoe, 'Tour through Great Britain'.

[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 3, leaf 119.

lot lying between the lands of Benjamin Balch and Henry Herrick, which extended northward to the highway now called Dodge Street. Longwood Avenue runs through a part of this land. By 1688 the forty-acre tract had become the property of Peter,[1] the youngest son of John Woodbery, the immigrant, and it remained in the hands of his descendants, at least in part, until transferred to Joseph Andrews in 1902.

It does not seem probable that this lot was the home farm of the Old Planter. Rather, it appears that the land which he first 'improved' was the most westerly in the Planters' grant along Bass River and adjoined the tracts of Balch and Rayment. It is evident that the fertile upland ground near the 'brooke' and the river and northward to the present Conant Street impressed these agricultural settlers as most favorable for homesteads, and each took up his wood and pasture lands farther to the north and east. When it is remembered that the 'joynt farme' remained an undivided estate for more than a generation, it can be understood that in the final settlement each heir held his share of the various areas of upland, marsh, and forest, rather than a section of two hundred acres originally surveyed in one block.

With this premise early maps[2] seem less open to doubt as to their accuracy in the location of John Woodbery's homestead near the head of Bass River. His land in this section extended northward and probably included the present property of the United Shoe Ma-

[1] See page 68.

[2] Map of Beverly drawn by Samuel Balch, in 'The History and Genealogy of the Balch Family', and also a colonial map in the possession of the Beverly Historical Society.

chinery Company's Athletic Association. In the house which he erected also lived (presumably) the second John Woodbery — called 'Senior' after the death of 'Father John' in 1641, perhaps to distinguish him from the son of Humphrey Woodbery, also named John. It seems reasonable to infer that the family of John Woodbery, Sr., continued to live in this house after his death. His widow, 'Sister Elizabeth', married Captain John Dodge, the son of another planter who took over Peter Palfrey's grant. Captain Dodge, therefore, became the owner of the share which Elizabeth Woodbery held in the first John Woodbery's land.

Captain Dodge also had land west of Bass River, and a fulling and a sawmill near the brook at the place where ruins of a dam were long visible. He conveyed his property to his son, often named in the records as William Dodge, Quartus.[1] This son had married a step-sister, Hannah, the daughter of John Woodbery, Sr.[2] He died intestate, and his administrators, among whom was his wife's brother, Ebenezer Woodbery, leased the land and the mills to Jonathan, the brother of William Dodge, Quartus. The lease was to extend seven years from the date, April 1, 1709. The real estate was not divided until March 21, 1720/1, when the sawmill — the fulling mill was not mentioned, but quite probably was in the same building — became the property of William

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 16, leaf 123; date, October 10, 1702.

[2] Further complicating the Woodbery-Dodge relationship, Ebenezer, the son of John, Sr., and Elizabeth Woodbery, married Hannah, the daughter of Captain John Dodge by an earlier marriage; and in the succeeding generation Samuel Woodbery married Hannah, the daughter of William (Quartus) and Hannah Dodge; and Samuel Woodbery was the son of Thomas Woodbery and another Hannah, the sister of Captain John Dodge!

Dodge's son-in-law, Samuel Woodbery, another son-in-law, Joseph Creesy, and a minor daughter, Abigail. A way, one and one-half rods wide, was reserved for the use of the heirs, who also had the privilege of raising the water when it was needed at the mill and of flowing the land from October 31 to April 10 'so long as the mill is Repareable'. The importance of this early tide mill is indicated in the designation of upper Bass River as 'y^e^ river w^ch^ runneth towards y^e^ mill' and 'y^e^ mill river' in deeds dated 1693 and 1702; as the 'mill pond' and the 'mill creek' in many descriptions of land transferred after 1717. A part of the present Balch Street was 'a lane commonly called Woodberys lane' in 1687; 'a highway to Captain John Dodges house' in 1703; and 'the lane leading to M^r^ Samuel Woodburys' in 1740.

This old highway followed what is sometimes called 'Lower Balch Street' to a point nearly opposite the brick house built by John Bell. Here the way turned slightly to the south and ran close to the river — the Planters' Path to their earliest landing-place. Still bordered by ancient apple-trees and willows it leads down to a shelving, sandy beach on a point that extends into the river. From the landing-place the path continued along the present McKay School grounds and joined what is now McKay Street. Not far from the first tee of the United Shoe Machinery Company's golf course stood Captain John Dodge's house.[1]

Captain Dodge also operated a mill farther down Bass River, a single mill-stone of which still remains

[1] Mr. Calvin Pierce, in the course of his researches concerning Ryal Side lands, discovered the 'bound rock', the location of Captain John Dodge's house, and the Planters' Path.

near the conduit under Elliott Street. This was the earliest corn mill in Beverly, and was run successively by John Friend, Lawrence Leach, and John Leach. The last-named owner conveyed the property to Captain John Dodge, November 26, 1670. Captain Dodge deeded it to his son-in-law, Ebenezer Woodbery (who was also his stepson!), October 12, 1702. Ebenezer Woodbery lived west of Bass River, near the present junction of McKay and Sturtevant Streets. Before either he or his father-in-law came into the possession of the corn mill it had been necessary to abandon the old landing-place, since the dam built across the river near the mill prevented boats from going upstream. The authorities granted the petition of the planters for a new landing-place by establishing one at a point later called Draper's, near the present Elliott Street.

Not only Captain Dodge's property lying west of the head of Bass River, but also that east of the river and the brook, the land which had been John Woodbery's, passed through his son, William Dodge, to the latter's son-in-law, Samuel Woodbery. There has already been mention of Samuel's interest in the sawmill in 1720/1. December 8, 1722, he purchased the share of his wife's sister Abigail in her father's estate:[1] '... sixteen acres of land partly in Salem and partly in Beverly, upland and salt marsh... with one quarter of dwelling house & barn & one quarter of saw-mill'. Since in deeds which he executed he is 'Samuel Woodbery of Salem', it seems probable that his house was just west of the Planters' grant. Ryal Side was not a part of Beverly until 1752.

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 47, leaf 28.

In 1746 Samuel Woodbery conveyed a portion of his Beverly property to his son, Samuel, Jr., and the house standing thereon may (?) have been the Old Planter's:[1]

'... a Certain Messuage Scituate in Beverly... consisting of a Dwelling house Barn and three Acres and half of Land and is bounded Northerly on the land of Jonathan Dodge Southerly on my one land as the Fence now Standeth Easterly on Land of Benjamin Balch and Extending there Westerly on my one Land untill the three Acres and half aforesaid be fully made out only Reserving to me and my Heirs forever the priviledge of Passing and Repassing over the Premises at all times and Seasons as Occasion may be...'

This lot seems to have included the knoll that rises east of the head of Bass River and north of the Planters' Path. Samuel Woodberry, Jr.,[2] later bought of Benjamin Balch Lovett (one of the heirs of Benjamin Balch, Sr.) two acres and one hundred thirty-three poles, lying south of the estate of Benjamin and Captain George Raymond. Here, also, a way was reserved for John Dodge. Samuel, Jr., must have acquired other land, since in 1777 he conveyed about twenty-eight acres to his brother, Dr. Israel Woodberry:[3] eighteen acres, with house, barn, and cooper's shop, that were south of John Dodge's land and west of John Lovett's; the lot bought of Benjamin Balch Lovett; and one half of fourteen acres held in common with William Woodberry, 2d. The lot with buildings Dr. Woodberry sold, December 1, 1777, to Josiah Batchelder.[4]

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 122, leaf 109.

[2] It was about this time that the spelling of the family name, *Woodberry*, came into general use on legal documents.

[3] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 135, leaf 145.

[4] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 135, leaf 208.

Dr. Israel Woodberry was the youngest son of Samuel, Sr., and became the owner of considerable property. He shared with his brother William in the possession of a house and the grist mills on Elliott Street; and he also received the new part of his father's house, twenty acres in Ryal Side, and one half of an adjoining four-acre lot in Beverly.[1] The other half of the Elliott Street estate William conveyed, in 1767, to Elisha,[2] a third son of Samuel, Sr., who also had 'Five acres over to the old house so called'. This was near, if not identical with, the homestead lot of the Old Planter. The four-acre tract Dr. Israel held in common with Benjamin, a grandson of Samuel, Sr., and the minor child of a son Thomas who had died. This lot was bounded 'Easterly on Benjamin Raymond's land, Northerly on the Way which Leads to Mr. Herricks house & Southerly on the Mill pond'. It may be that the McKay schoolhouse stands upon a portion of this lot. Benjamin seems to have built no house there, but he had received the old or west part of the dwelling of Samuel, Sr., with twenty acres of land in Ryal Side. His land in Beverly, and that of Dr. Israel, William, and Elisha, divided among many heirs and transferred in small parcels, came partly into the possession of John Bell during the eighteen twenties:

Elisha's half house on Elliott Street, formerly his brother William's, became his son Joseph's. The latter also had 'five acres of land over at the old house so called', east of Dr. Israel's lot, and half of the twenty-five acres which he held jointly with his brother William. Joseph Woodberry received from

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 127, leaf 129.
[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 148, leaf 240.

William, September 8, 1767, twelve acres bounded west and north by land of Raymond and others, east on Dodge and Trask, and south on the highway; this lot had a dwelling on it, and on the south side of the road was a barn, 'on land belonging to William and Elisha Woodberry'.[1] Two of Joseph's children apparently came into possession of his land in the old Woodbery homestead: Ruth, who married Andrew Toutain, and Martha, who married William Pousland. The former is mentioned as holding land there in 1816; the latter's son Joseph had a share in the land which in 1822 became Thomas D. Pousland's; he sold it in 1825 to John Bell. John Pousland conveyed an undivided third of two acres and sixty-two poles to John Bell.[2] Another son of Elisha, William R. Woodberry, became the owner of four acres, conveyed to him by Judith Woodberry in 1809. She married Daniel Foster, who deeded land to Osman Gage in 1818;[3] in 1827 Gage sold the land to John Bell.[4] William R. Woodberry's estate, administered by his widow, who had been Nancy Pousland, included a tract of four acres, one hundred five poles, conveyed to Joshua Wallis in 1816,[5] sold by him two days later to Isaac Woodberry,[6] released to Samuel and Thomas Woodberry in April, 1827,[7] and the next day sold by them to John Bell;[7] this lot lay between the road and the mill pond, with the Toutain lot on the west and the Foster lot on the east.

Isaac Woodberry had a tan-yard on what is now Balch Street.[8] West of the tan-yard lay John Hammond's land, which apparently came to him through his wife, Hannah (Woodberry) Hammond. Their daughter Elizabeth in 1822

[1] Beverly Historical Society Collections.
[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 244, leaf 92.
[3] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 217, leaf 23.
[4] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 247, leaf 124.
[5] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 209, leaf 190.
[6] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 209, leaf 191.
[7] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 244, leaf 93.
[8] 'Tan-yard Hollow' was south of the highway.

conveyed to John Bell one undivided third of two acres and sixty-two poles north of the 'proprietors' open way',[1] and a year later two acres south of the road and bordering the mill pond.[2] Joanna (Woodberry) Carlton conveyed her share in the Woodberry land, a lot lying 'north of the road leading from Isaac Woodberry's tan-yard to the landing', to John Bell.[2] Robert G. Wood, grandson of the Revolutionary hero, Joseph Wood, who had bought land of Jonathan Conant, (Joseph Wood married Mercy Blashfield, a sister of Joseph Woodberry's wife) sold one acre and thirty-two poles, lying between Gage's land and the Balch homestead, to John Bell.[1]

To quote more fully the many recorded documents concerning the Woodberry land near Balch Street appears unnecessary. Through them it is apparently possible to identify as a part of the Old Planter's estate a large portion of John Bell's holdings on both sides of the highway from the lot on which he built his brick house to the little brook which flows into Bass River. Opposite his house was his brick-yard; and quite possibly he also owned the brick-field formerly west of the present McKay Street.

Northwest of the Bell land and on both sides of a road which formerly led to Conant Street, near Cherry Hill, was the land of Cornelius Baker, who married Hannah Woodbery, the Old Planter's daughter. He joined with other heirs in a conveyance, drawn up in 1682, but not recorded until 1711, of a tract of forty acres to Humphrey Woodbery:[3]

'Be it known... that Wee, Peter Woodbery, Elizabeth Dodge, Late y^e^ wife & since y^e^ widow & relict of John Wood-

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 237, leaf 266.
[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 237, leaf 267.
[3] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 23, leaf 80.

bery Sen^r Deceased now y^e wife of John Dodge, with her Son Ebenezer, son of s^d John Woodbery Deceased... and Cornelius Baker... have sold unto Humphrey Woodbery Sen^r a certaine parcell of upland ground containing forty acres... now in possession of John Woodbery, Son of y^e said Humphrey Woodbery Sen^r...'

Humphrey Woodbery, in his will drawn up in 1685/6 — an original document in the possession of the Beverly Historical Society — bequeathed to his son John 'that same forty acres he now dwelleth on'. If this lot was identical with that transferred in the deed of 1682, as it seems reasonable to conclude, then John Woodbery, the Old Planter, had a share in the unimproved land near the present Dodge Street. It lay to the south of Roger Conant's 'upland neere Richard Dodges farme'. The John Woodbery who became its owner did not spend all of his life in Beverly. Savage is authority for the statement that after being made a freeman in 1670, 'he was next year at Rowley and soon back in Beverly'. He had married Elizabeth ——, of Rowley, and lived for a time, at least, in the part of that town later set off as Byfield. The following records apparently refer to him:[1]

'Elizabeth, the wife of John Woodberrie, departed this life on the 16th day of April, 1689'.

'Ales Darbye (widow of John Darbye of Marblehead) and John Woodbery [married], July 2, 1690'.

And in the records of deaths: 'Woodbrey, John, Jan. 22, 1715–16. C.R.2'.

Several children of John and Alice Woodbery settled in the portion of Rowley which later became George-

[1] Beverly Vital Records.

town. Their Beverly estate was transferred in small parcels:

Three acres to Elisha Dodge, September 2, 1713;[1] a 'dwelling house & Barne & Twelve Acres of Land' to two sons, John and Richard, October 21, 1719,[2] property which they later sold to Daniel Conant;[3] fourteen acres to Daniel Conant, June 29, 1722;[4] five acres to Benjamin Conant;[5] six acres sold for the support of two children of John Woodbery, Patience and Humphrey. These transfers of property made by, or in behalf of, the heirs of John Woodbery, Jr., total forty acres. Evidently he had also acquired other land, not sold until 1723, for William Conant of Bridgewater and Mary, his wife, conveyed to their cousin John Conant three acres, 'it being the one Eleventh part of what was not disposed of in y^e^ homestead of our honoured Father, John Woodbery deceased'. The land lay south of Dodge Street and east of Brimble Hill.

The Old Planter, John Woodbery, had another daughter, Abigail, who became the wife of John Hill. Her share of the original grant is indicated in the following:[6]

John Hill, June 15, 1681, sold to 'Peeter Woodbery ... all the land as well meddow as upland ground, now in y^e^ possession of y^e^ aforesaid John Hill, that is to say, all his pt of the farme y^t^ was formerly John Woodberys now deceased, father-in-law

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 30, leaf 25.
[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 36, leaf 169.
[3] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 37, leaf 42.
[4] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 39, leaf 231.
[5] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 40, leaf 168.
[6] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 6, leaf 42.

unto y^e^ said John Hill, that is, five and twenty acres of upland ground... bounded easterly with y^e^ land of John Woodbery & sotherly with y^e^ land of William Dodg & westerly with the highwaye or comon roade & northerly with y^e^ land of Benjamin Balch sen'r & y^e^ land of John Balch & likewise a p'cel of meddow ground... pt of the meddow comonly caled the great marsh, with all y^e^ land or p'cels of land whatsoever lying in Beverly... which was part of y^e^ said John Woodberys farme...'

Thus Peter Woodbery, the Old Planter's youngest son, came to own a sister's share of the original grant as well as his own and a part of his brother's (John, Senior). He was about a year old when his father died, and must have spent his childhood in the Planter's homestead. Little is known of his early life. That he received schooling is clear from the character of his handwriting and from the way in which he filled many positions of trust in the community. Indeed, an account of his various connections with town affairs gives an insight into the history of Beverly from 1667 to 1700. In 1667 he was one of the signers of the petition for a church at Bass River Side; in 1668, the year in which Beverly was incorporated as a town, he was made a freeman; in 1671 he signed the petition of Roger Conant that the name of the town be changed to Budleigh; in 1675 he first served the community as a selectman (this was the year in which the gallant Flower of Essex fell at Bloody Brook); in the following year he was appointed a member of the committee to determine the boundary between Beverly and Wenham; in 1679 he was one of the 'perambulators' selected to reset the bounds between Lynn and Salem, which his father had originally helped to survey; from

PETER WOODBERRY HOUSE

32 Dodge Street, Beverly, Massachusetts

1683 to 1686 he was again selectman of the town; in 1689 he was appointed a deputy to the provincial legislature, when the people of Massachusetts threw off royal authority, and again in 1692, when Governor Phipps organized the province; he was active in the church, serving as deacon and as a member of the committee for seating the people in the meeting house; he bore the title of 'sargent' in 1686 and lieutenant in 1689, and further showed his interest in military matters by contributing money to 'buy great guns and ammunition for the defence of ourselves, in case of assault made by the Indians' and a 'fort for our safety in some convenient place by the sea'; he was one of the committee appointed by the town to remonstrate with the General Court for directing Parson Hale to accompany as chaplain the Canadian expedition in 1690.

It was upon the return of this expedition that the witchcraft delusion greatly stirred the people of Beverly. To aid those accused of 'casting an evil eye' was to challenge the condemnation of fellow-townsmen, yet such was the cool, sane judgment and the decision of character possessed by Peter Woodbery that he was unmoved by the superstitions of his time and the opinions of his neighbors, and he actually dared to make his home an asylum for those charged with being witches. Tradition has it that in his barn, not far from the present corner of Longwood Avenue and Dodge Street, he kept a horse saddled and bridled, in readiness to convey to a place of safety those who came to him for help.

It seems that about this time he built for his son the house still standing in North Beverly, at 82 Dodge

Street. The dwelling was erected, not upon the original Woodbery land, which lay south of the highway, but upon that portion of the Old Planters' grant first allotted to William Trask. Captain Trask apparently decided that he had in Salem a better opportunity for operating a corn mill, and he built one in what is now Peabody, which, according to the testimony of John Massey,[1] was 'y^e^ first corne mill that was Erected in Salem'. In 1640 he built another mill about half a mile down the river, and soon afterwards moved it nearer the first mill, to a place later called Frye's Mills. His Beverly grant he transferred to Thomas Scruggs, as the following extract from the Book of Grants sets forth:

'Item y^t^ was ordered that whereas m^r^ Scrugs had a farme of three hundred acres beyond forest River, And that Cp Traske had one of tooe hundr(ed) acres beyond Basse River, The —— Cp. Traske frely relinquishing his farme of tooe hundred acres, It was granted vnto m^r^ Thomas Scrugs, and he there vpon relinquished his farme of three hundred acres....'

The reallotment of grants took place, May 2, 1636. Mr. Scruggs died in the spring of 1654, and his widow, Margery Scruggs, conveyed the tract to her son-in-law, John Rayment, June 24, 1654. The latter deeded a part of the land to his son, John Rayment, Jr., January 12, 1696, and he in turn conveyed the eastern portion of the lot to Peter Woodbery, Sr., March 4, 1696/7.[2]

Deacon Peter Woodbery also became the owner of thirty acres of land in what is now Ryal Side, bought

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 20, leaf 124.

[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 12, leaf 134.

January 2, 1679, of John Greene,[1] and twenty acres, purchased April 1, 1690, of Exercise Conant.[2] He and William Rayment in 1668 had bought jointly another lot of Henry Herrick. Altogether he held considerable property, portions of which he distributed through gifts to his daughters when they married and substantial assistance to his son Peter. At the time of his death he still owned about sixty-six acres of land,[3] which he divided between his two sons. To his daughters — he had seven — he made bequests of money, and to his widow, Sarah, the daughter of Richard Dodge, he left his household goods, directing his sons to provide her with all that she required. His will was an interesting document, which cast some light on the location of his lands:[4]

'I give unto my son Peter y^e^ Dwelling house he now Lives in with y^e^ land it stands upon, which I purchased of John Rayment....

'I give unto him five & twenty acres of Land on pt of which his barn standeth & I likewise bestow upon him w^t^soever he is

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 6, leaf 43.

[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 8, leaf 169.

[3] Included in the inventory of his estate were 'One negro man-servant called Robin, fifteen pounds', and books appraised at a 'respectable value', to quote the Honorable Charles Levi Woodbury, from whose 'Genealogical Sketches' comes the account of one volume. It was Bullinger's 'Sermons on the Apocalypse', printed in 1557. On the fly-leaf were Deacon Peter Woodbery's signature and the date, 1704. Very interesting were the entries made in the book by later owners, through whom it finally came into the possession of Charles Levi Woodbury, a descendant on his grandfather's side from Deacon Peter's son Josiah, and on his grandmother's side from the Deacon's other son, Peter. Governor Woodbury of New Hampshire was his father.

Other men of note could trace their descent from one of Deacon Woodbery's daughters, Martha, who married Ichabod Brown. Among them were Justice Horace Gray and Bishop Phillips Brooks.

[4] Essex Probate Court Records, book 308, page 263.

to mee indebted on y^e^ account of building said Barn.... I give unto him five acres of meadow in y^e^ meadow Called y^e^ great Marsh... one acre & an halfe of meadow, viz all my part of y^e^ pond marsh which lyeth at y^e^ Lower end of M^r^ Hulls house lott & my one acre of meadow att——. I give unto him fifteen acres of y^t^ Lott which I bought of John Greene, lying in Salem near y^e^ house of John Trask, which fifteen acres he shall take of y^e^ southermost part of said Lott.... I give unto him Twenty acres of land which I bought of Exercise Conant....'

West of the present Cabot Street lay the land which Deacon Peter Woodbery willed to his son Josiah:

'I give unto my loving son Josiah all y^e^ housing y^t^ his mother occupyeth & y^e^ Garden & Fruit Trees to be att her Marriage or decease... I give unto him y^e^ East end of my Dwelling house to be his imediately upon my Decease, with all my stock of Cattle, horses, sheep and swine, with all my outhousing orchard & ye homestead lott & y^e^ field before y^e^ Door & y^e^ Cow pasture by Thomas Rayments (at Ryal Side) & My peice of Salt Marsh lying near Benj^n^ Balches house.... And all the Remainder of y^e^ northermost part of y^e^ lott by John Trasks after my son Peter hath had his share'.

The homestead lot which fell to Josiah Woodbery may quite possibly have been Deacon Peter Woodbery's own share of the Old Planter's estate. There is little in the records about this first Josiah: he joined the Second Church at North Beverly in 1715; he served as surveyor and as grand juror; his estate comprised more than one hundred acres, besides rights in the Long Hill pasture and other common lands of Beverly. At his death the homestead passed into the possession of his widow, Lydia Herrick Woodbery, and his daughter Lydia, who also received various other pieces of land. The mother's

dower was a tract of eight acres south of the house. Of the residue of the estate Josiah the second, the only son of Josiah and Lydia Woodbery, received two shares, and three daughters each one share.[1] Josiah bought out the interest of his sister Lydia and her husband, Humphrey Bartlett,[2] and he continued to live in the old house. Mr. Hale's list of houses in Beverly indicates that in 1751 Josiah Woodbery, Jr., still occupied the house which had been his grandfather's.

In 1761 Josiah Woodbery conveyed to George Raymond (son of Captain William Raymond and husband of Jerusha Woodbery) two thirds of the house — 'being the same that the Committee that divided the Real Estate of my Hon^{d} Father M^{r} Josiah Woodbery Dec'd .[3] His mother had married Nathaniel Brown of Wenham, January 20, 1750/1, and she retained her third of the homestead. George Raymond conveyed the two-thirds interest in the house and barn to Hannah, the wife of Josiah Woodbery,[4] and Josiah released to George Raymond all his right in that part of the estate 'which was sett off to my Hon^{d} Mother as her right of Dower'. George Raymond's widow, Jerusha, married Jonathan Dodge, and he appeared as the next owner of two thirds of the house and half of the reversion of the dower. This property he sold to William Page, November 5, 1778.[5] Less than a year later Lydia (Woodbery) Brown died, and the other half of the reverted dower interest in

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 89, leaf 144.
[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 132, leaf 150.
[3] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 107, leaf 198.
[4] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 109, leaf 201.
[5] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 137, leaf 16.

the homestead was conveyed to William Page.[1] The latter, July 10, 1786, sold the entire property to Captain John Pousland,[2] who also bought land adjoining that of Joseph Raymond and Simeon Baker.[3] He did not long remain in possession of the homestead, as it was destroyed by fire. This house is said to have stood not far from that now numbered 138 Balch Street. Levi Woodberry of North Beverly remembered it as being near Cabot Street and west of Samuel Dodge's house.[4]

The rest of the estate of the second Josiah Woodbery passed into the hands of Josiah Woodbery of Salem, Massachusetts, and of Peter Woodbery, of Amherst, New Hampshire.

It is not difficult to trace the changes of ownership in the house at 82 Dodge Street, which became the property of Peter, the son of Deacon Peter Woodbery. He also bought land of John Rayment, two acres, 'bounded Northerly by s[d] Woodberyes land on which he now liveth', May 14, 1697,[5] and he purchased of Joseph Herrick four acres of marsh, April 12, 1697. Little is known of Peter Woodbery the second. Like his father he was a deacon of the church, chosen October 26, 1704. He married Mary Dodge, who outlived him by many years. She was a person of great decision of character, and her title of 'Madame Woodbery' indicates the

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 138, leaf 66.

[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 145, leaf 244.

[3] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 161, leaf 103.

[4] Information given to the Honorable Charles Levi Woodbury, 'Genealogical Sketches'.

[5] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 12, leaf 134.

position which she held in the community. It was her vote that ended a lengthy discussion of the men of the North Beverly Church, a vote in favor of extending a call to the Reverend John Chipman to be their minister. This seems to have been the beginning in New England of the exercise of women's rights!

The second Peter Woodbery's estate was appraised in 1706/7 at one hundred pounds. It was divided between his two sons, Benjamin and Peter, Benjamin releasing, in 1728/9, all claim to house, barn, and land to Peter Woodberry, the third of the name, born June 20, 1705. Peter the third lived many years in the North Beverly homestead. He was also a proprietor of two hundred acres of land in Narragansett Number Four, now Mount Vernon, New Hampshire, one of the townships granted by Massachusetts to those who had taken part in Indian wars. This New Hampshire property he gave in his will, drawn in 1775, to his son James, who became a pioneer settler there and was an ancestor of Governor Straw.

Peter Woodberry the third gave the eastern end of the North Beverly house to his son John. Such a division of property was not unusual in New England, where the eldest son was apparently expected to set up a house for himself, and the youngest son was to remain with his parents in their declining years and then to succeed to the ownership of the homestead. Although seventy years old in 1775, Peter Woodberry was, as his will asserted, in good health, but he responded to the alarm of April nineteenth, and the excitement of the day and the exertion of the swift march proved too great a strain

upon him. He died less than a month later, May 14, 1775.

His son John lived in the North Beverly homestead until his death, September 3, 1813. In the division of the estate the house passed into the possession of his son Benjamin. At the latter's death it became the property of his son, another Benjamin, who was a mariner. He died, January 11, 1841, and his son Levi became the heir to the estate. Here Levi Woodberry lived until his death in 1896. By order of the court his estate was assigned to his widow, Mary Ann Woodberry. She devised the house and land to Joseph Andrews, whose widow, Lucy S. Andrews, is the present owner of the estate.

Mrs. Andrews has a notable collection of Indian relics which her husband gathered — stone implements and literally hundreds of arrow-heads which he picked up in the field stretching behind the house to the shore of Wenham Lake.

The exterior of the Peter Woodberry house does not betray its great age, but within, the large low rooms, with broad beams supporting the ceiling, the deeply-recessed windows, the heavily-paneled doors, the quaint closets tucked into unexpected places, the two massive chimneys, each filling a large space in the attic and affording wide fireplaces, the brick ovens beside the kitchen fireplace — all betoken the architecture of colonial days.

This old dwelling, that sheltered for more than two hundred years the descendants of the Old Planter, and the field across the highway, even longer in the posses-

sion of the family, must ever hold the affectionate interest of those who, although living to-day in widely-separated parts of our country, may all claim descent from one of the two brothers, John and William Woodbery.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM TRASK'S GRANT

It has already been noted that Captain William Trask did not long retain his share of the thousand-acre grant made to the five Old Planters. His land passed, May 2, 1636, to Thomas Scruggs, who built a house on the northern side of Dodge Street, east of its junction with Conant Street. After the estate of Mr. Scruggs passed to his son-in-law, John Rayment, June 24, 1654, the latter apparently occupied the house for a time.

John and William Rayment, and possibly another brother, Richard, first landed in America at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, in 1630. They were members of the colony which John Mason founded. When Mason died, his wife, the administratrix of his estate, decided that the income from the settlement did not justify the expense of maintaining it, and she refused any longer to furnish supplies. Many of the colonists left Portsmouth, among whom were the Rayment brothers. The testimony of William Rayment is in the court records of Salem: 'I, said Rayment, came to Salem about the year (16)52.' Both he and his brother John became prominent in the affairs of Bass River Side. The latter served as juror, constable, selectman, and builder of highways and fences. He was also one of those who, for undertaking to construct a gallery on the east side of the meeting house, were each to have 'a seate in the foreseate... for their trouble... and to pay for s^{d} foreseate 10 s'. He volunteered in the defense of the province in King Philip's War, in which his son

John also took part. The latter is said to have been the first man to enter the fort of the Narragansetts.

It was John Rayment, Jr., who became the owner of the dwelling near the corner of Dodge and Conant Streets, either the original Scruggs house or a new one built near the same site, for the younger Rayment is recorded as living on this lot in 1683. He received the title to a part of his father's tract, January 12, 1696,[1] but within a few years he conveyed the property to his brother Thomas. The latter, December 29, 1704, sold the house and land to another brother, Jonathan Rayment, who deeded both to Isaac Hull, January 15, 1705/6.[2] When Mr. Hull died a few months later, the estate fell to his daughter Sarah. Before 1717 it had passed into the possession of Sarah Hull's brother, Isaac Hull, and after his death was the property of his daughter Mary and her husband, Ebenezer Wallis. They sold the house and land to Dr. Benjamin Jones, February 24, 1736.[3] Dr. Jones died in 1794, and thereafter came frequent transfers:

Billy Porter bought the estate, March 3, 1801,[4] and conveyed it to Joshua Herrick, April 4, 1801; he deeded it to Ebenezer Shillaber on the same day; the latter's heirs owned it in 1813; then Ezra Dodge and his wife Sophia of Wenham; then John I. Baker, March 24, 1871; Lakeman Southwick, April 30, 1872; Edwin Southwick, December 11, 1874; Augusta Southwick, December 14, 1874; Esther Caldwell, June 22, 1888; Elizabeth A. Lovett, March 15, 1899; and

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 23, leaf 216.
[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 39, leaf 175.
[3] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 94, leaf 120.
[4] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 204, leaf 203.

finally Fred H. Wallis and his sister, Mabel Wallis Holbrook, the present owners, October 3, 1904.

This house, now numbered 64 Dodge Street, has undergone considerable alteration. The original structure is the eastern end, at the northern corner of which was built an ell. The western end, containing the kitchen, was removed and used as a carriage-house, and the present western end was then added. There is to-day a large room in the middle of the building, which was probably the living-room. The timbers of the structure are substantial, as in all colonial dwellings, and there is good paneling above the fireplace.

John Rayment, Jr., who had owned this house, went to Middleboro after 1692, and the land, about sixty acres, which his father had conveyed to him in 1696, he transferred in several parcels: the house and eighteen acres to his brother Thomas, who conveyed it to another brother, Jonathan Rayment;[1] the latter retained thirteen acres, and to him John, Jr., sold ten acres more;[2] he also conveyed another tract of ten acres to his son Samuel, who later sold it to Jonathan;[3] and a fourth lot of twenty-five acres went to William Rayment, brother of John, Sr., and to his son George.[4] Of the original tract conveyed to John Rayment, Jr., thirty acres were, in 1706, in the possession of Jonathan Rayment, to whom his father, John, Sr., had also given sixty acres, in 1697/8.[5]

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 43, leaf 308.
[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 17, leaf 24.
[3] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 20, leaf 59.
[4] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 21, leaf 92.
[5] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 115, leaf 185.

Jonathan Rayment was prominent in both town and church affairs. He became a deacon of the church in North Beverly, April 26, 1722, not long after its organization. At the time of his death his estate was appraised at more than one thousand pounds. The inventory included: one house, a barn, and sixty acres of land in the homestead; another house, barn, and thirty acres of land; twelve acres 'by Conants'; and eight acres in Topsfield. In his will, drawn December 1, 1735, he made ample provision for his wife;[1] to his son Benerges he bequeathed 'all my Quick Stock', 'my Negro Serv^t named Caezer',[2] and the homestead, reserving out of the sixty acres twenty-two for his grandson, John Rayment, the child of his son Barnabas who had died; for his daughter-in-law, the widow of Barnabas, he provided a home and a living, which included 'Liberty to gett wood for her particular Fireing ... so long as Shee remains my S^d Sons Widow'; to his grandson he gave in addition to the land reserved from the homestead lot, the 'dwelling house, barn, and about thirty acres whereon my Son Benerges now dwells'.[3]

The land bequeathed to John Rayment he possessed in March, 1760, and its description in a recorded deed indicates that the thirty-acre tract was the identical lot that had been a part of the elder John Rayment's gift to

[1] Essex Probate Court Records, book 326, page 267.

[2] Jonathan Rayment gave a negro woman servant to his wife. He had previously sold his 'Spanish Indian Boy Named Pito about Ten years old for a slave', Essex Registry of Deeds, book 16, leaf 204.

[3] Rayment Papers, Beverly Historical Society Collections, contain an agreement between Benerges Rayment and his mother, which gives in minute detail the arrangement whereby they should 'improve' the land together.

his son John in 1696.[1] The boundaries of the twenty-two-acre tract make evident that it was the southern portion of Jonathan Rayment's sixty-acre lot, and help to fix the location of that tract and of the house which Jonathan built and bequeathed to his son Benerges. The present Brimbal Avenue traverses the entire length of Jonathan Rayment's homestead lot, and his grandson's twenty-two acres apparently include a part of St. Mary's Cemetery.

Benerges Rayment died intestate little more than a year after his father's death, and the inventory of his estate includes thirty-eight acres in the homestead, twelve acres near the Conant land, and lots in Topsfield.[2] To his widow was assigned the easterly portion of the homestead, a long strip of land extending from Dodge Street south to the Herrick estate.[3] The remainder of the property of Benerges Rayment was divided into five parts, each daughter — the only son had died — receiving one fifth. To this was added a proportional share of the widow's dower when she died, before 1761.[4] Joshua Cleaves became the owner of four fifths of both dower and residue,[5] in addition to land which he had already purchased. He later moved to Wenham; and April 26, 1794, he conveyed to William Curtis, Levi Dodge, and Anna Fisher, fifty-two acres

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 23, leaf 216.

[2] Essex Probate Court Records, book 327, page 302.

[3] Essex Probate Court Records, book 332, page 50.

[4] Essex Probate Court Records, book 340, page 260.

[5] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 107, leaf 68; book 114, leaf 262 and leaf 263; book 108, leaves 50 and 51; book 106, leaf 11; book 116, leaf 145; book 116, leaf 168; book 108, leaf 51; book 106, leaf 10.

and one hundred thirty poles of land, bounded on the north by the 'great road and Dodges Row'; on the east, 'the heirs of William Dodge the father and William Dodge the son both deceased'; on the south, Silas Walden; on the west, Deacon Samuel Conant and Silas Walden.[1] August 25, 1808, William Curtis sold to Levi Dodge sixteen and one-half acres 'formerly belonging to Joshua Cleaves'.[2] February 2, 1819, he sold to Jesse Sheldon one half of a house and barn, and one acre of land 'near Deacon Raymond's corner so called'.[3] Then came transfers of various portions of the estate, which up to 1856 the children and grandchildren of William Curtis held in common with the heirs of Levi Dodge.

The so-called Curtis house which stood near the corner of Budleigh Avenue and Laurel Street may have been the homestead of Jonathan Rayment. At 139 Dodge Street is the dwelling known in Beverly as the Sheldon house, but it seems certain that it was earlier the property of Levi Dodge, who quite possibly may have built it. Colonel Dodge was born in Lunenburg, Massachusetts, and served in the Revolutionary War as an ensign in the Lunenburg Company. He later moved to Beverly, and under his command served many soldiers of the town during the War of 1812.

Besides the lots given to his sons, John, Jr., and Jonathan, the elder John Rayment had other land near the present Cabot Street. To the man who had married his daughter Rachel, William Bradford, he gave twenty

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 158, leaf 111.
[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 263, leaf 153.
[3] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 228, leaf 259.

acres. This lot adjoined Captain William Rayment's on the east and south.[1] Mr. Bradford conveyed it to his son William,[2] who sold six acres to Nathaniel Wallis,[3] and other tracts to Robert Dodge [4] and Benjamin Rayment,[5] before he left Beverly and went to Boxford.

The remainder of the land of John Rayment, Sr., near the present Cabot Street passed mostly into the hands of his son Nathaniel. This tract was on the west side of the highway opposite the rail field, and extended northward to a narrow lot adjoining the Exercise Conant estate and belonging to Peter Woodbery. The Rayment land was bounded on the west by the holdings of Cornelius Baker and of Captain John Dodge, and stretched southward, including the estate which is still in the possession of John Rayment's descendants, who bear the name under its modern spelling, Raymond. On the east were several small lots that lay along the upper end of the present Balch Street. These were conveyed to Peter Woodbery and William Rayment, October 26, 1668.[6] One of them, which Mr. Woodbery apparently released to Captain Rayment, the latter conveyed to his son Edward, April 4, 1695;[7] another, also released by Peter Woodbery, Captain William Rayment retained until after 1700;[8] the third he re-

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 28, leaf 154; February 1, 1696/7.
[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 28, leaf 153; April 6, 1708.
[3] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 41, leaf 53; April 11, 1721.
[4] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 51, leaf 248; April 12, 1721.
[5] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 124, leaf 3; January 20, 1725.
[6] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 3, leaf 133.
[7] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 22, leaf 262.
[8] See page 86.

leased to Mr. Woodbery,[1] whose homestead, later his son Josiah's, lay not much farther north.

It was west of the Woodbery property and just where Upper Balch Street curves to the east that John Rayment, Sr., built his 'mansion house'. The dwelling, with a barn and outhousing, he conveyed, January 15, 1696/7, to his son Nathaniel,[2] who had married Rebecca, the daughter of Lot Conant. Nathaniel Rayment also received the homestead lot of sixteen acres and two other tracts, one of fourteen acres, lying north of Balch Street, and another of eight acres south of that highway, near the head of Bass River. He also had a lot in what was called Birch Plain, apparently north of the Planters' grant.

This youngest son of the elder John Rayment died, January 8, 1749. His son David became the owner of the barn and the land around it; his daughters received money and, at their mother's death, his household goods; the residue of his property passed to the four sons — David, Benjamin, George, and Nathaniel. David Rayment died in 1766. July 1, 1769, six heirs of the estate released their interests to Joseph, the son of Benjamin and Mary (Trask) Rayment and grandson of Nathaniel.[3]

Joseph Raymond — it seems to be about this time that the present spelling of the name came into use — remained in possession of the house until his death, August 17, 1807, at the age of eighty-three. By his will, drawn in 1803,[4] his estate was left to his wife Lydia as

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 49, leaf 166.
[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 12, leaf 32a.
[3] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 151, leaf 128.
[4] Essex Probate Court Records, book 375, page 399.

long as she retained his name, and after her decease to his daughter Molly, excepting only three bequests of money to two sons and the younger daughter. Molly Raymond never married. She always lived in the old house, but as she became feeble, she gave the property to Judith, the daughter of David and Mary (Simmons) Raymond, who assumed the care of 'Aunt Molly'. Judith married Stephen Sands in 1828, and the 'mansion' of John Rayment became known as the 'Sands House'. Mary Sands, the daughter of Stephen and Judith, married Augustus Caldwell and continued to live in the old colonial dwelling.

The house had large rooms, with paneled wainscoting and paneled chimney-breasts. The chimney itself was massive, supported by an arch in the cellar and affording roomy fireplaces. The kitchen fireplace, in particular, flanked by brick ovens, was so commodious that there were seats on either side of the fire and a grown person could stand erect within the space. In later years the family kept it open in summer and set the big cook-stove there; in winter they closed it to shut out the cold. The living-room of the house had a beautiful corner cupboard, surmounted by shell carving.

This interesting dwelling the children of Augustus and Mary Caldwell sold, and it subsequently underwent such extensive repairs as to lose nearly all the characteristics of early American architecture. Workmen removed the whole interior of the building and remodeled the house so as to afford modern accommodations for two families.

Another Raymond house, not standing to-day, be-

longed to Benjamin Rayment, by whose will his estate was divided among eleven heirs.[1]

Benjamin Rayment had apparently received the southern and eastern portions of Nathaniel Rayment's property, and he owned at the time of his death one half of a dwelling house, one half of a barn, a shop, and a tan house, fourteen acres in the home field, and about thirty-five acres in Ryal Side and in Wenham. His estate was appraised at nearly three hundred and fifty pounds.[2] The other part of the house and barn — the eastern part — he had conveyed to his son, Nathaniel Rayment, 2d, and also six acres of land[3] Nathaniel, 2d, conveyed it to Ebenezer Porter in 1785;[4] Ebenezer and Sarah (Raymond) Porter conveyed it back to Nathaniel in 1787;[5] the same day Nathaniel sold it to Josiah Batchelder, Jr.[5] The next owner was John Chapman, who conveyed to Israel Thorndike, March 16, 1793, the 'half house lately owned by Nathaniel Rayment which I purchased of Josiah Batchelder, Jr., and land under it I bought of Joseph Wood'.[6] This land was southeast of the two acres and one hundred poles which Joseph Wood and Jonathan Conant sold to Hugh Hill.[7]

The western half of the house Nathaniel Rayment, 2d, sold to Simeon Brown (who became owner of the Lot Conant-Kittredge house in 1792), and also half of the barn and two acres of land, bounded on the east by the highway, on the south by the heirs of Ebenezer Raymond, on the southwest by Samuel Dodge, and on the north by Captain John Low.[8] Simeon Brown sold this half-house and barn to Jonathan Conant,

[1] Essex Probate Court Records, book 356, page 562.
[2] Essex Probate Court Records, book 357, page 390.
[3] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 137, leaf 39; May 26, 1779.
[4] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 144, leaf 269.
[5] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 146, leaf 311.
[6] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 156, leaf 140.
[7] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 164, leaf 95; September 21, 1795.
[8] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 147, leaf 77.

December 15, 1787.[1] Nearly two years later Jonathan Conant and Joseph Wood conveyed to Judith Francis [2] two acres of land, with the western half of a house and barn, 'Being the whole of the interest of Simeon Brown as per his deed dated December 15, 1787'.

Since this house under joint ownership was described as being south of Captain John Low's land, which was opposite the Shaw estate and the tract Richard Quartermass sold to the Reverend Daniel Oliver, its probable site was the lot south of the Hugh Hill house, where lived the grandson of the privateersman, and it must at one time have been a part of Captain Hill's property.

Benjamin Rayment also made provision for another son, Ebenezer:

In 1782 Ebenezer Raymond received three and one-half acres, northwest of 'the land already sold Nathaniel', southwest of the grantee's land, and northeast of William Woodberry's estate, 'along the fence between my home field and my ten-acre lot'.[3] The same day, April 23, 1782, Benjamin Rayment conveyed to Elisha Woodberry, his son-in-law, four acres, bounded on the south by 'Deacon Balch's Lane so called', and on the east by William Woodberry's land.[3] He had previously sold to Peter Shaw seven acres on the opposite side of Balch Street, extending down to 'Mill Creek or Brook'.[4]

Land just west of this seven-acre lot went into the hands of Nathaniel, 2d, who sold two acres and twenty-one poles to Dr. Israel Woodberry, January 12, 1786,[5] and sixteen acres to Jonathan Conant, August 4, 1787.[6]

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 147, leaf 77.

[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 151, leaf 201, also Beverly Historical Society Collections.

[3] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 139, leaf 141.

[4] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 115, leaf 6; April 5, 1764.

[5] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 147, leaf 84.

[6] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 155, leaf 148.

The westerly part of the elder John Rayment's land that fell to his son Nathaniel passed into the ownership of George Raymond. He was in the Cape Breton expedition of 1758, and in the stirring days before the Revolutionary War he took an active part. Beverly records mention him as the moderator of a meeting at which the town took measures to prevent the use of tea. His wife was Abigail Kettle, whose family held land in Ryal Side.

George Raymond had a son George, who was a feltmaker, and had a hatter's shop at what is now 120 Balch Street. April 16, 1792, George, Jr., conveyed to David Raymond ten acres of land:[1]

'... ten acres in Beverly in M^r^ Oliver's Parish, bounded easterly by the road that leads from the main street to Batchelders farm and Doctor Woodberrys mill, northerly by land of Joseph Raymond from said road to land of Robert Baker, westerly by said Baker's land and is to extend southerly so far in equal wedth front and rear as to make ten acres as aforesaid, including that land on which the small dwelling house in which I now live & my barn & my other buildings stand, which house barn and so forth I also hereby convey to the said David'.

David Raymond married Hannah Giles, and their son, James Giles Raymond, became the owner of the house. He married Sally Conant, and a son of theirs, later known to people of Beverly as Colonel John W. Raymond, succeeded to the property. He served with distinction in the Civil War, was a member of the Massachusetts Legislature, 1865 and 1866, a selectman

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 155, leaf 183.

of Beverly, 1866 and 1867, and an Essex County Commissioner. The house in which he lived, much altered from the original dwelling, is now the property of his son, John W. Raymond.

Still another son of the immigrant, John Rayment, was Thomas, who volunteered in the defense of the colony during the Indian wars. He had a son Jonathan, to whom he conveyed, February 23, 1719/20, '... two thirds of all my lands that I am possessed of with y^e^ Dwelling house which I bought of Edward Bishop... & priviledge to Set in my Pew in our Meeting house'. Since Thomas Rayment had been one of the largest contributors toward the building of the church at North Beverly, his seat in the sanctuary must have been most desirable, for, according to the rule adopted for 'seating the meeting', 'speciall regard' was to be shown 'unto persons who have don service for y^e^ benefit of y^e^ precinct and have contributed high in building of y^e^ hous for y^e^ publick worship of God'.[1]

The land which Edward Bishop had sold to Thomas Rayment was in Ryal Side, fifteen acres north and west of Cornelius Baker's estate. From the date of the transfer, 1702, it would seem that this Edward Bishop was the one (there were four of the name living before 1695), commonly called 'the sawyer', who married Bridget Oliver.[2] His home was on the brow of what is now known as Cherry Hill, west of a tract on which stood Captain Thomas Rayment's first house. The latter had received

[1] 'The History of Beverly', by the Reverend Edwin M. Stone, page 263. This book gives very interesting and valuable information as to the regulations of the parish and the customs in early New England churches.

[2] Bridget Bishop was the first sufferer in the witchcraft delusion.

the land from his father, John Rayment, Sr., September 5, 1702.[1] Apparently he owned considerable property in Ryal Side, and his son Jonathan retained the portion conveyed to him until 1734, when he moved to Lexington.

The records of land bestowed by John Rayment, the immigrant, upon his children, in addition to the lots conveyed to William Bradford and Benjamin Balch, Sr.,[2] make it evident that he held more property in Beverly and Salem than did his brother William, but the latter seems to have been a leader in both civil and military affairs. He was active in the Narragansett War in 1675, was Lieutenant-Commander of Beverly and Wenham troops in 1683, commanded a company in the expedition to Canada in 1690, and served as deputy to the General Court in 1685 and 1686. He married Hannah, the daughter of the elder Edward Bishop,[3] who had land in Beverly north of Roger Conant's homestead lot. Evidently there was no house upon this lot in the early days of the settlement, but there seems to have been a tract belonging to Mr. Bishop on the west side of the present Cabot Street which he gave to his grandson William in 1670. Because the deed was lost, he renewed the gift in 1682: 'housing and land on the west side of the country road from Salem Ferry to Wenham & all rights in common lands'. The lot was bounded by land of Benjamin Balch, John Woodbery, Sr., John Rayment, William Rayment, and the country road.

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 22, leaf 203.

[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 8, leaf 146; August 19, 1685.

[3] Edward Bishop came to Salem in 1639; he was a constable in 1660; in 1667 he became a member of the first Beverly Church.

William Rayment's home farm was around the present Salem reservoir, which was known in colonial days as Rayment's Hill. His will indicated the extent of his holdings in the Planters' grant: [1]

To his son Edward, to whom in 1695 he had already conveyed three acres,[2] he bequeathed twenty acres 'at the Northern End of My Hill so called', and land in Salem and in Topsfield; to his son Ebenezer he bequeathed his land on the 'west side of the Country Road, on part of which my Dwelling House now Standeth and the Barn... and land running from y^e^ Country Road to y^e^ Hill, about thirteen acres'; and he also gave to Ebenezer three parcels of land on the hill lying south of the lot bequeathed to Edward; to Hannah, the daughter of his son George he gave the land near Wenham Lake which he and George 'in partnership' had bought of John Rayment, Jr.; [3] to each of his four daughters he gave twenty pounds; and to three grandchildren he gave land west of Wenham Lake.

These children were the sons of William Rayment, the second, to whom his grandfather, Edward Bishop, had given land in 1670 and 1682. He was killed by a falling tree in Beverly woods in 1701, and when his widow, who had been Mary Kettle, died soon afterwards, the three children became the wards of their uncles, Edward Rayment and James Kettle. All three boys married girls of the Balch Family, two of whom were sisters of Benjamin, Skipper, and the Reverend William Balch, living on Freeborn Balch's estate east of Wenham Lake.[4] In 1715 William and Paul Rayment released their shares in land which their grandfather had bequeathed to them, and their brother Daniel became the sole owner.

Edward Rayment evidently built a house on the twenty

[1] Essex County Probate Court Records, book 310, page 100.

[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 22, leaf 262; April 4, 1695.

[3] Captain William Rayment's son George lived, after 1761, in the Josiah Woodbery house, later John Pousland's; he also built a house on the lot near Wenham Lake. Raymond Avenue to-day runs though this lot.

[4] See page 111.

acres assigned to him. In his will [1] he left to his wife his house and other buildings, with two and one-half acres around them, and also land in Topsfield; to his brother Ebenezer he left fifteen acres on the hill and land on Birch Plain; to the nephews mentioned above who had been his wards — he had no children — he made generous gifts of money.

Ebenezer Rayment thus had a large part of the land formerly belonging to Captain William Rayment. He disposed of this property by a will: [2] to his son Edward he gave his house, perhaps that which had been William, Senior's, the barn, and all the land on the 'other (the east) side of the Country Road on the Northerly side of the Lane leading from the Country Road or Barn Yard down to the brook and then turning as the Brook runs to Robert Dodge's land'; he gave Edward also the 'Cyder Mill and House', and half of his land in Topsfield and on Birch Plain; to his son Ebenezer he gave the 'Land on the South Easterly Side of the Barn Yard and of the Lane leading from thence down to Edward's twenty acres', ten acres on the 'Northerly Side of the Lane on the west side of the Country Road, which land is Commonly Called the New Close', and the other half of his Salem and Topsfield lots.

The house that Edward Rayment came to possess apparently was near the junction of Cabot and Upper Balch Streets, and was not far from the homestead which Deacon Peter Woodbery gave to his son Josiah. Edward Rayment bought additional land from Anna Batchelder and from John Lovett,[3] so that his total holdings amounted to more than one hundred acres. To Jonathan Conant [4] he conveyed twenty-five acres, March 17, 1759, the southern part of which was the land

[1] Essex Probate Court Records, book 315, page 539.
[2] Essex Probate Court Records, book 327, page 364.
[3] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 144, leaf 70; March 7, 1753.
[4] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 125, leaf 214.

which Conant sold to John Francis. Edward Rayment also conveyed eighty-three acres to Peter Shaw, with a house and a barn, January 31, 1759.[1] After that date the present Hill Street may have taken the name of Shaw's Lane, and quite possibly it may earlier have been Rayment's 'Lane from the Barn to the Brook'.

An attempt has been made to show the location of the lands which John and William Rayment, the immigrants, held in the Planters' grant. Their combined estates did not equal the two hundred acres originally Captain William Trask's fifth interest in the thousand-acre 'fearme', if we except the land which they owned in Salem and Topsfield. It is believed that the remainder of the Trask grant was divided from time to time among the other Planters, Roger Conant and the descendants of Woodbery and Balch. A brother of William Trask, named Osmand, received land in Beverly, and from him are descended most of those now living in the city who belong to the Trask Family. His estate lay outside of the thousand acres granted to the Old Planters in 1635.

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 105, leaf 195.

THE LAND OF JOHN BALCH

ANOTHER associate of Conant and Woodbery in establishing a colony in the New World was John Balch. The name of Balch first occurs in the records of Somerset, England, in a tax list compiled in 1327, and even at that early date its spelling was identical with that used by the immigrant to America. According to family tradition John Balch set out from Horton in Somersetshire about the year 1623, and accompanied a colony under the leadership of Captain Robert Gorges, who had obtained a large grant. The immigrants landed at Wessegusset, now Weymouth, where, in 1621, Weston had tried to found a settlement, but had with his followers abandoned the undertaking after two years. To the new plantation came certain disaffected members of the Plymouth Colony, among whom was Roger Conant.

From this time John Balch was associated with Conant. Together at Cape Ann and later in Naumkeag they strove to plant an agricultural settlement that might afford a haven for Puritans. Both these pioneers of the North Shore of Massachusetts Bay were characterized by religious toleration, as were the other Old Planters, not one of whom is known to have taken part in the persecutions of Baptists, Quakers, or witches. Like Roger Conant, John Balch and his wife Margery helped to found the Salem Church in 1629. He was among the first to be made freemen in America, in 1631,

and it was probably this circumstance that led him to name the son born in that year, Freeborn.

John Balch had frequent mention in the records as a surveyor of highways and of the bounds of grants made to newcomers in Salem. He also served the community as selectman, a fact which indicates the esteem of his fellow-townsmen.

Soon after this Old Planter received the grant of two hundred acres of land he set about the building of his house, perhaps as early as 1636, certainly not later than 1638. It is still standing on the corner of the present Cabot and Balch Streets, one of the oldest houses in New England and the only one remaining that was erected by an Old Planter. From the report of Norman M. Isham, the architect employed by the Balch Family Association to examine the ancient structure with a view to restoration, the following is quoted, for the benefit of those interested in early American architecture:

'The house, which has had many additions, some of which do not now exist, seems to have consisted at first of a one-room story-and-a-half building the original shell of which is, curiously enough, still preserved at the north end of the present block.

'To the south of this original room another was built somewhat later, which was wider, and as far as can now be ascertained without bareing the frame, was two stories in height. It is possible that this was done as early as 1648. It was previous, I think, to the building of the old north room, which was made to conform to this end, and not this end to a new roof over the old. This conclusion is made certain by the pitch, which is flat for 1648, and belongs to a later period entirely, a period when a lean-to was in question.

'It has been suggested that the original house was thatched.

BALCH HOUSE

Cabot and Balch Streets, Beverly, Massachusetts

There are no signs that the old roof, the rafters of which are now exposed in the north garret, ever had any thatch upon them. They are too far apart for the direct application of thatch and are needlessly heavy.... There is a possibility that the ancient roof was thatched.... I have found a drawing of an old English cottage where the laths, thin strips of oak, were laid horizontally on vertical poles, like our bean poles — no better — which in turn were carried on horizontal purlins.

'There are several interesting points about the old framing. There are no girts on the second floor level, except perhaps the chimney girt. In place of the end girt there is what is called a "bearer" fastened to the inside of the studs which run from the sill to the girt at the plate level in one length. This is true of the studs in the side walls as well, but there are neither girts nor bearers, the last floor joist on each side is set fairly close to the studs. The side girts were not needed to support the summer beam, which runs as is usual in Salem and the neighborhood, across the house and has a post under each end. These posts have, just under the summer, brackets with filleted quarter rounds on the edges and underneath, while the sides below have a wide plain chamfer stopped in the ordinary way. The summer itself has a filleted quarter round for its chamfer. ... The posts in the north wall are not treated with any special consideration, and have no brackets below the ceiling because they support no girts. They probably have them above the floor joists below the plate.

'The key of the problem is the north or old house. The axis of this, as of the whole block, lies north and south.... The fourth side is taken up by the chimney, and the invariable custom in such orientations was to put this on the north, never on the south, and thus to make of it a barrier against the cold winds of winter.

'The chimney of the original building must have been at the north end of it. As there is no chimney there now, and as there is one at the south, between the two parts of the house, it follows either that this north room is not now in its original

location, or that it once, in order to cover the chimney, had an extension or bay on the north which has now disappeared.

'The knoll on which the house now is was no doubt the site of the first cellar, tent, or wigwam which John Balch had, and the site of the house that succeeded these early makeshifts. The north end, then, is not far from its original site, but it has lost its original chimney and has been turned around to bring the old chimney end — the north end — into relation with a chimney built at the end of the south or later room. This would seem to show that the ancient chimney was not of much account, and there is a possibility that it was made of wood and clay and not of brick....

'The next move was to put a new roof on the old room, and this made a two-room house, with both ends alike and a level ridge. This may have been done at a comparatively late date, as the roof was of purlins and was boarded vertically.[1]

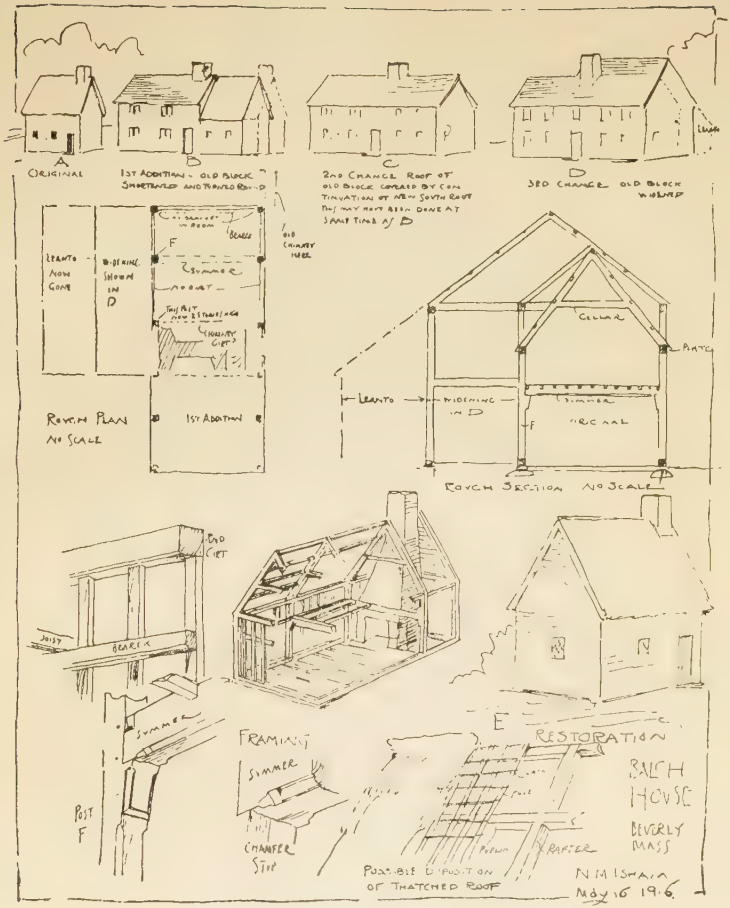
'Widening the north end of the house made a still later addition which was roofed by carrying up the eastern slope of the second roof on the north end to a higher ridge. This was a purlin roof, also, with vertical boards.

'At a later date still there was a lean-to on the west of the north block'.

There are pictures of the Balch house, as it looked when the lean-to was on the west. The next change in the building was the removal of the lean-to, leaving the structure as it was previous to its restoration by the Balch Family Association.

John Balch died in the month of June, 1648. His will is interesting, not only because of the light it sheds upon the disposition of his part of the Planters' grant, but also because in enumerating the stock, orchards, and cornfields, it clearly shows that the settlers of Beverly

[1] A purlin is a piece of timber laid horizontally upon the principal rafters of a roof to support the common rafters on which the covering is laid.



SHOWING SUCCESSIVE CHANGES IN THE BALCH HOUSE

were from the first self-supporting. The reliance of the English colonists upon themselves was an important factor in the later triumph of Great Britain over France in America.

John Balch made the following bequests:

To his widow, the 'Roome newlie Built', twelve acres of land, one half of the 'great fruit trees', and the privilege of storing the fruit in the barn; his 'best bed with all Convenient furniture there vnto belonging'; one fourth of all the household goods 'except the rest of my bedding'; '2 Cowes by name Reddie & Cherie'; and one 'yearling heaffer'.

To Benjamin, his eldest son, one half of the farm; a share of the stock; 'one fourth pt of my household goods & halfe of the great fruit trees'.

To John and Freeborn each one fourth of the farm; a share of the stock; and 'halfe of the young Aple trees'.

Freeborn's share of the Old Planter's two hundred acres soon went into Benjamin Balch's possession. This youngest son is said to have gone to England, where he died about 1657. The following conveyance of his property is recorded:[1]

'This writing witnesseth that I Walter Price of Salem, executor and administrator unto Freeborn Balch of Salem... do hereby give... unto Benjamin Baulch of Salem at Bassriver... all that pt of the farme lying at Bassriver w^{ch} John Baulch deceased hath given by will unto Freeborn Baulch....'

To Benjamin also went the estate of John Balch the younger. John was drowned by the upsetting of a skiff in a shower when crossing the ferry between Beverly and Salem, June 16, 1662. The court decided, March 31,

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 1, leaf 86.

1663, that his widow — he had married Mary, the daughter of Roger Conant — should have the use of his property for seven years, and that it should then pass into the hands of his brother Benjamin.

Thus Benjamin Balch came to possess the two hundred acres granted to John Balch, the Old Planter. He seems to have inherited much of the immigrant's spirit of toleration and of independence in thought and action. Although the records declare that 'it is ordered that if any inhabitant wthin this Jurisdicon of Salem shall at any time after the date here of receiue or take in any fforayner vpon any pretence whatsoeu^{r} wthout aprobation of the select men (he) shall pay for eurie weekes Continuance twentie shillings p weeke', Benjamin Balch ventured to entertain and lodge for the night a stranger on foot. For this the authorities arrested him and compelled him to pay a fine. As further proof of his broad-mindedness it is recorded that in a day when religious doctrines were rigorously upheld and parental authority was unquestioned, he forbore any insistence upon the baptism of his thirteen children, and left the matter to their own convictions and desires.

Most of his land Benjamin Balch conveyed to others before his death. To his grandson, the child of his son Samuel, he gave the homestead and about fifty acres, January 4, 1703/4:[1]

'For & in consideration that my loving Grandson Benjamin Balch... doth dwell with me and doth Manage & Carry on my husbandry affairs & business to my Satisfaction & Content... I give... vnto him... all that my now Dwelling house Barne &

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 19, leaf 209.

outhousing together with my Oarchard Vpland Salt Marsh & other Mowing grounds there vnto adjoyning... Contayning about six acres... and also a parcel of land Contayning Seven Acres... bounded northerly partly by y^e^ high way & partly by land in y^e^ possession of widow Marg Rayment (Margery Scruggs Rayment, widow of John Rayment, Sr.) westerly by y^e^ land of Ebenezer Woodbery & Southerly by y^e^ highway & Easterly by y^e^ land of Philip White... also a parcell of Land Contayning Ten acres... bounded easterly by y^e^ land of John Rayment and northerly by land left for a way to Capt Dodges house & westerly by y^e^ land of y^e^ S^d^ Capt John Dodge & Southerly by one other highway to y^e^ S^d^ Capt Dodges house... and also a parcel of vpland & Mowing ground Contayning five and Twenty acres ... bounded Easterly by y^e^ land of Capt William Rayment northerly by y^e^ land of Nathaniel Wallis Jun^r^ & Westerly by y^e^ highway & Southerly by y^e^ land of George Trow & partly by y^e^ land of William Conant'.

The grandson of Benjamin Balch, Sr., lived in the Balch house until his death, January 8, 1749. His will gave the homestead and land to his wife for her life and then to his four daughters and his grandson, Benjamin Balch Lovett. One of his daughters, Deborah, married Jonathan Dodge, and she and her husband became owners of the property. Their son, Cornelius Dodge, next received the title to the house, and he lived there until he died, April 27, 1837, at the age of ninety-four. His son, Azor Dodge, became the owner of the house, barn, and home field. Azor gave to his son Joshua a life interest in the premises, December 10, 1869, and three days later conveyed the remainder of the estate to Joshua's children, Addie and Martha.[1] Martha's share

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 787, leaf 144.

went to her mother in 1880, but upon the latter's marriage she released this share to Addie, then the wife of Charles H. Herrick. Mrs. Herrick thus came to possess the entire estate, April 30, 1913.

Not long after this transfer of the property the Balch Family Association became interested in the project of reconstructing the original dwelling. June 8, 1916, Mrs. Herrick and her husband conveyed the Balch homestead to Joseph Balch of Westwood, John Balch of Milton, Franklin G. Balch, Francis N. Balch, and William Sumner Appleton, of Boston, and Franklin Balch of Topsfield. Since the completion of their project the outlines of the house as the Old Planter built it are visible at the north end of the structure.

Besides the homestead the grandson of Benjamin Balch, Sr., received three pieces of land. These tracts apparently lay north of the Balch house and the Philip White lot, and extended northeasterly across the present Cabot Street, north of the land which Roger Conant gave to Lot in 1666, and also north of the small tract early owned by Edward Bishop and later by Captain William Rayment. Much of the Balch land west of Cabot Street passed into the hands of John Lovett, 2d, who married Mercy, the daughter of Benjamin and Mercy Balch and sister of Deborah, who became the owner of the Balch house. John and Mercy Lovett held at least twenty-nine acres, and their son, Benjamin Balch Lovett, also had a share in the Balch land:

December 21, 1739, John Lovett received a conveyance of two acres;[1] in 1744 he became the owner of nineteen acres,

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 78, leaf 236.

bounded by the country road and by land of Ebenezer Raymond and George Trow;[1] March 5, 1759, the heirs of Benjamin Balch, in return for a quit-claim by John Lovett upon the estate of his father-in-law, released to him their interest in about eight acres, lying north of the 'way to Samuel Woodberry's' and east of Benjamin Raymond's land.[2] The son of John and Mercy Lovett, Benjamin Balch Lovett, received about seven acres upon his release of his interest in his grandfather's estate;[3] his land lay north of Henry Herrick's and the tract released to his father. Later he released to Dr. Israel Woodberry his interest in the eight acres 'set off to my mother Mercy Lovett towards her part of her father Deacon Benjamin Balch's estate';[4] this land was then 'in possession of our hon[d] father John Lovitt'.

A large part of his land, twenty-five acres, John Lovett, 2d, sold to Edward Rayment, bounded on the southwest by the road, on the south by Trow's land, on the north and the northwest by Rayment's land.[5]

Of his land east of the present Cabot Street Benjamin Balch conveyed the most northwesterly portion to James Taylor.[6] This lot, which contained four and three-quarters acres, lay south of a narrow strip of land which had belonged to Benjamin Balch, Jr. (uncle of the Benjamin Balch whose property we are now tracing), and had passed into the possession of his daughter Ann (Balch) Wallis. James Taylor sold the lot to John Batchelder, Sr., and his son Nathaniel.[7]

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 87, leaf 167.
[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 108, leaf 97.
[3] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 128, leaf 216; April 3, 1759.
[4] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 137, leaf 194.
[5] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 144, leaf 70; March 7, 1753.
[6] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 39, leaf 190; April 21, 1721.
[7] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 66, leaf 8; February 21, 1728/9.

In the foregoing paragraphs has been traced in part the land given by Benjamin Balch, Sr., to his grandson, the homestead and about fifty acres, with an additional tract bought by the latter of Lot Conant. Of the remainder of his estate the elder Benjamin Balch made other conveyances: to Mary, the widow of his brother John (drowned in Beverly Harbor) and later the wife of William Dodge, and to his sons — Samuel, Benjamin, Jr., John, and Freeborn. Another son, Joseph Balch, joined the gallant 'Flower of Essex' and fell in the massacre by the Indians at Bloody Brook, South Deerfield.

The land given to William and Mary (Balch) Dodge [1] was a part of the fifty acres which fell to John, the brother of Benjamin Balch, Sr. The remainder of the portion of John Balch, the younger, Benjamin divided between his sons, Samuel and Benjamin, Jr. Samuel had the smaller and more northerly lot, which included a part of the present North Beverly Cemetery. Benjamin, Jr., received, February 1, 1688/9, a narrow strip stretching from the land given to Samuel southward to the junction of Cabot and Dodge Streets; Cabot Street was its western boundary, and the land of John Rayment, Jr., its eastern.[2] Benjamin, Jr., also received a lot just north of his nephew Benjamin's, east of Cabot Street. When he died intestate his daughter Ann and her husband, Nathaniel Wallis, were assigned the most southerly portion of his land; [3] another daughter, Abi-

[1] See page 118.

[2] Balch Papers, Beverly Historical Collections; also Essex Registry of Deeds, book 21, leaf 20.

[3] To Nathaniel Wallis's lot were added forty-seven poles, conveyed to him by Ebenezer Rayment (book 41, leaf 52). Two years later the same grantor

gail, received the lot north of Ann's; a son, Joseph, received the land near the present fire-station; a third daughter, Ruth Balch, had the lot north of Joseph's; and a son, Ebenezer, had a part of the land on which the Bass River schoolhouse stands and the lot occupied by the North Beverly Church.

The Second Parish was established in North Beverly, October 24, 1713, under the name, 'Precinct of Salem and Beverly'. To the new society Ebenezer Balch sold six and one-half acres of land.[1] The lot is described as being in the form of an L, the vertical line of which ran north; the boundary then turned west, then south, then west to Cabot Street, a little north of the Friend tomb, along Cabot Street to Conant Street, and east to the first bounds.

Upon this lot the construction of a meeting house went forward speedily, so that within a short time it was ready for occupancy. The parish extended a call to the Reverend John Chipman to be their minister, March 29, 1715. For his dwelling they assigned a lot of ninety-four poles, but he preferred to buy the Conant house now numbered 634 Cabot Street. The lot assigned to him he retained until March 25, 1757, when the parish voted to sell it to John Fluent (or Fluant) upon the payment by the latter of one pound, thirteen shillings, four pence.[2] The house built upon this lot is now 27 Conant Street.

conveyed to Wallis a right of way 'in the Lane which Extends from the Country Road betweene my barne & said Wallis's Dwelling house... to my pasture upon the hill... as far as the end of Bradford's land'. The son of Nathaniel Wallis sold the land to John Balch, 3d.

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 27, leaf 161.

[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 111, leaf 258.

Mr. Fluent's shoe-shop, with the addition of several rooms, is now numbered 29 Conant Street.

John Fluent died in 1763, and May 16, 1764, his widow, Mary (Baker) Fluent, sold to Ezra Fluent 'my now dwelling house and about an half acre of land', bounded south on the highway, west and north by the parish land, and east by the estate of Benjamin Jones (who lived in the house now 64 Dodge Street).[1] Ezra and Jerusha Fluent (she was the daughter of Benerges Raymond) sold the house and land to Josiah Trow, Jr.[2] The latter, May 6, 1785, acquired from Benjamin Jones, his neighbor on the east, a strip of land bordering the original lot and extending northward between the parish land and the old burying-ground, to which a right of way was left open. After various transfers the property passed into the ownership of Angeline (Caldwell) Wallis, wife of Joseph F. Wallis, who with her family at present occupies the house.[3]

The original Fluent house had two rooms built around a large chimney. Its first addition was an ell on the western side, also provided with a large chimney that afforded big ovens and ample fireplaces. Later an ell was added on the eastern side, and this, too, had an immense chimney.

The Wallis homestead, the parish land, and a part of the schoolhouse lot were Ebenezer Balch's portion, and south of it, and also south of the William Dodge house, later known as the Webber place, was Ruth Balch's inheritance. Upon her land the Fourth Congregational

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 111, leaf 260.

[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 137, leaf 34.

[3] Grateful acknowledgment is made to the Wallis household at 27 Conant Street, not only for information concerning their own homestead and the parish land, but also for much assistance in identifying other estates on the Old Planters' grant.

Society erected their church. The building was later moved to the northwestern corner of the present Cabot Street and County Way, and for some time was used for social purposes, even for dances. To-day it is occupied by a grocery store (488 Cabot Street). The lot where it formerly stood is now known as the Lummus land.

Still farther south was the triangular piece of ground assigned to Joseph Balch. After his death, his son, another Benjamin Balch, who went to Scituate to live, sold to James Taylor, Jr., nine and three-quarters acres,[1] and to William Prince six acres, with house and barn,[2] south of the Taylor lot. The six-acre tract was evidently at the corner of Cabot and Dodge Streets, and upon it later stood the famous tavern of Simeon Baker, where many a weary traveler on his way to Boston found excellent fare and genial company and rest for the night. In this hostelry Rufus Choate tried before Justice Isaac Woodberry his first case in 1827.

Northeast of the tavern[3] was the site of the first cotton mill in America:

'... beginning at the corner of the premises by Simeon Bakers barn by the road leading from Beverly ferry to Ipswich, Southeasterly 30 poles to Porters land, northeasterly along Porters land 28 poles to Capt. Caleb Dodges land, northwesterly by said Dodges land 25 poles and three tenths to the road leading from Mr Olivers meeting house to Beverly ferry, by said road southwesterly 40 poles to the corner of Simeon Bakers garden, then southerly by said garden three poles to the

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 76, leaf 01; May 10, 1725.

[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 44, leaf 229.

[3] Simeon Baker also owned land on the west side of Cabot Street. He bought a lot of Josiah Batchelder, Jr. (book 157, leaf 141), another of Joshua Cleaves (book 164, leaf 89), and a third of John and Hannah Trow.

corner of it, southwesterly by said garden and barn to the southerly corner of premises against the first mentioned road'.[1]

This lot, which contained six acres and three poles, was purchased, August 18, 1788, by John Cabot and Dr. Joshua Fisher, who were associated with George and Andrew Cabot, Moses Brown, and others, in an experiment in cotton manufacturing. They erected at North Beverly a three-story building, sixty feet long and twenty-five feet wide, with a pitching, shingled roof. Abraham Caldwell described it as 'three stories in height, although about one third of the first story was below the surface of the ground. The entrance was by a broad stairway from eight to ten feet wide, with protecting rails on each side, in the center of the front side of the building'.[2]

The machines for spinning and weaving, though indeed crude, were made as nearly as possible like those used by the English inventor, Richard Arkwright, in his mill. The motive power was a pair of heavy horses driven in the basement by a boy fourteen years old. In the basement, also, were the great vats for dyeing the goods. The only dye-stuff used was indigo, and to pulverize it, the crystals were placed in a huge iron kettle suspended from the ceiling beneath an iron ball weighing sixty pounds; a rotary motion was given the kettle by grasping one of its legs and turning it swiftly; its contact with the iron ball ground the indigo to powder.

That the manufacture of cotton fabrics was well under way in 1789 is evident from the following extract from

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 153, leaf 93.

[2] Letter of Abraham Caldwell to Robert S. Rantoul, dated 1893.

George Washington's diary, an entry made on the occasion of his memorable visit to Beverly:

'After passing Beverly, 2 miles, we came to the Cotton Manufactory, which seems to be carrying on with spirit by the Mr. Cabots (principally). In this Manufactory they have the new Invented Carding and Spinning machines; one of the first supplies the work, and four of the latter; one of which spins 84 threads by one person. There is another machine for doubling and twisting the threads for particular cloths. For winding the Cotton from the Spindles and preparing it for the warp, there is a Reel, which expedites the work greatly. A number of looms (15 or 16) were at work with spring shuttles, which do more than double work. In short, the whole seemed perfact, and the Cotton Stuffs which they turn out, excellent of their kind.'

These 'Cotton Stuffs', as advertised in the stores of Beverly and Salem, were: 'Corduroys, royal ribs, thick setts, and stockinette, of different qualities and prices, all manufactured in Beverly and warranted to be lower in price than English goods of the same kind and quality'.

The early attempt at cotton manufacturing in Beverly proved unprofitable. In a letter to Nathan Dane [1] George Cabot admitted that, although their spinning-machine could turn out as much thread as ten good women could do by hand in a day, there were still great obstacles to the undertaking, which only patience and perseverance could overcome. The crude machinery and the even more serious disadvantage of unskilled operators made only about ten per cent of the total output of the mill salable. It is not strange that the promoters of

[1] Letters to Dane, Beverly Historical Society Collections.

the enterprise lost interest in it and turned their attention to their rapidly-developing overseas trade. Others attempted to operate the mill until 1815, and later the building was used as a schoolhouse. It was destroyed by fire in 1828, and the next year some young men of Beverly Farms, where a brick meeting house was to be raised, loaded bricks from the ruins of the factory and carried them to the Farms, to be used in building the church.

The land on which the mill had stood John Cabot and Joshua Fisher sold to Samuel Blanchard, and through Blanchard and Johonnot it came into the hands of the Honorable Robert C. Winthrop, who conveyed it in 1833 to Benjamin Ludden. Here Mr. Ludden built a house. Near it was the home of the North Beverly pastor, Edwin M. Stone, who wrote the only history of Beverly ever printed. He conveyed thirty poles, on which stood his house, to Benjamin Knight, October 20, 1864,[1] and the latter sold the property, April 4, 1873, to Moses Herrick.[1] In the settlement of Mr. Herrick's estate the house passed into the ownership of E. Augusta Preston, the wife of Lewis Preston.[2] It is now numbered 8 Dodge Street.

Not far from the cotton mill was the famous well, with a square curb and a long well-sweep, where Washington is said to have stopped for a refreshing drink. It was on the land owned by Robert Dodge, whose house stood behind the Ludden dwelling.

North of Ebenezer Balch's inheritance which he sold

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 675, leaf 197, and book 952, leaf 73.

[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 1719, page 229.

to the Second Parish was the land which Benjamin Balch, Sr., conveyed to his eldest son Samuel. The easterly portion of this lot seems to have passed into the ownership of William Trow,[1] and the westerly portion apparently fell to Samuel Balch, Jr., who married Mary, the widow of Jonathan Baker. In 1742 he conveyed six acres, with dwelling house and barn, to John Baker of Wenham.[2] The latter's daughter Mary married William Taylor, and they sold half of the house, the barn, and six acres to William Dodge, 2d. Four years later Cornelius Baker sold the other half of the house to Mr. Dodge.[3]

Samuel Balch, the elder, also received from his father, Benjamin Balch, Sr., the southern half of a lot measuring forty acres.[4] This tract lay between the lots of Peter Woodberry and Jonathan Rayment on the south side of Dodge Street. Samuel Balch's half of the lot went to his son, Samuel, Jr., who in 1732 conveyed to Nathaniel Brown five acres of the 'land bequeathed me by my hon'd Father Sam'l Balch & now in possession of John Balch, Jr., Executor'.[5] In 1738 Cornelius, another son of Samuel Balch, gave to John Balch, Jr., a quit-claim to his share in his father's estate. The elder Samuel [6] also had Benjamin Balch's tract of land on the north side of Dodge Street, directly opposite the forty-acre lot. It is recorded that Nathaniel Brown (who married Abigail,

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 81, leaf 65.

[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 94, leaf 168; March 21, 1742.

[3] See page 122.

[4] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 9, leaf 38; January 18, 1688/9.

[5] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 59, leaf 209; April 4, 1732.

[6] The elder Samuel Balch became Town Clerk of Beverly in 1693 and held the office seven years. He was several times elected representative to the General Court.

the granddaughter of Samuel, and daughter of John Balch, Jr.) received from Peter Balch, his wife's uncle, a quit-claim to his right of reversion in five acres, 'part of the homestead of Samuel Balch, adjoyning the Country road & the land given by will to my brother Joseph [1] and running to Wenham Pond'.[2]

It was upon this tract that Samuel Balch built his house, a well-preserved colonial dwelling which still stands at 110 Dodge Street. It was constructed four-square around an immense chimney which provided fireplaces on both floors. Beside the former kitchen fireplace are still brick ovens, one for baking and smoking hams and another with a big set kettle. All the rooms are wainscoted, and the doors and chimney-breasts are finely paneled. In one door leading to the present kitchen, a later addition to the house, tiny lights of glass replace the upper panels, a feature which indicates that this was originally an outside entrance. Except for the ell on the west and a porch in front, this house of Deacon Samuel Balch remains architecturally much as he built it. It stands on a narrow lot of about eight acres, which extends from Dodge Street back to Wenham Lake, and is the property of Earl Lovett.

Of the forty-acre lot which Benjamin Balch, Sr., gave, January 18, 1688/9, 'equallie to bee divided betwixt my two sons Sam[ll] & Jn[o] Balche', the latter was 'to have his proportion next y[e] Country Road going to Wenham', the land 'where he now Dwelleth'. Evidently this John Balch, grandson of the immigrant, had already erected

[1] Joseph Balch died at sea in 1732.

[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 61, leaf 118, June 15, 1732.

a house in 1688/9, and it seems to be established that it was the very building which still stands at 109 Dodge Street, opposite the Deacon Samuel Balch house.

John Balch was a 'housewright alias farmer'. He bore such titles as Surveyor of Highways, Tythingman, Grand Juryman, Sergeant, Constable, Selectman, Ensign, and Lieutenant; and he represented Beverly in the General Court. Just before he died he drew up and signed his will, a lengthy document, illuminating both as to the character of the man who wrote it and also as to the social conditions of the times.[1]

The house in which John Balch lived he had conveyed about five years before he died to his son, Caleb Balch (1733).[2] Caleb died in 1774 and the estate passed to his son, another Caleb Balch. The latter, March 12, 1784, sold the house and land to Silas Walden,[3] who retained it until his death in 1819. He left no will, and in the division of his estate his daughter, Mary Eliza Walden, was assigned the second story of the house, and an-

[1] The will contained minute provisions for the widow, even to the stipulation that she should have 'ye Liberty of Gathering] so many Beans in ye field as she may have occasion of for her own use both for summer and winter'. (Evidently thus early did the use of beans as a staple of diet justify Beverly's sobriquet of 'Beantown'!) Mrs. Balch was also to have 'twenty bushels of good Indian Corn, five bushels of Malt, Two hundred Pounds of Beef Out of which Quarter of ye Beast She Pleaseth to have it, Two Barrell of Cyder, with Apples Sufficient for her use... and fifteen pounds of flax from ye Swingle.... Two Cows and four sheep... ye service of my Indian Woman Called Quando & ye Privilege of a Horse to ride upon for her necessary occasions'. The inventory of John Balch's estate included 'one Negro man value £95'.

Beverly Vital Records: Lieutenant John Balch died, November 19, 1738, 'a. abt. 84 y'.

[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 77, leaf 177. Caleb Balch also owned land that had been Ruth Balch's, later a part of the Lummus estate.

[3] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 155, leaf 123.

other daughter, Sally Walden, had the first story of the building; each had an equal share in the land under and adjoining the house. When Mary Walden died in 1832, the court ordered her administrator to sell her part of the estate. It passed in 1848 to Ephraim Brown of Marblehead, as did Sally's portion, also.[1] After various transfers the estate in 1856 went into the possession of Mary Sheldon of Salem,[2] and for a time she lived in the old house. In 1868 she conveyed the property to her sister Adeline, then the wife of George Lufkin.[3] Mr. Lufkin sold the estate to Arvilla M. Rand, who married Horace E. Perkins.[4] The latest transfer of the John Balch house was its recent conveyance to Miss Bertha Drugan.[5]

Benjamin Balch, Sr., gave other land to his son John. March 10, 1703/4, John Balch received a tract of twelve acres at the extreme north of the Planters' grant, adjoining his brother Samuel's lot.[6] He also succeeded to his father's interest, his 'whole right and proportion', in a lot northeast of the rail field which Benjamin Balch had apparently held in common with Roger Conant.[7] The latter bequeathed his share to his son Exercise, who sold it to John Balch.[8] A little three-cornered lot southwest of this tract, which belonged to John Leach in 1683,

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 397, leaves 171 and 172.
[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 537, leaf 114.
[3] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 738, leaf 251.
[4] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 1839, page 158.
[5] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 2556, page 16.
[6] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 28, leaf 92.
[7] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 28, leaf 93; March 14, 1683/4.
[8] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 28, leaf 90.

passed to Jonathan Baker and later to Jabez Baker, who in 1709 conveyed it to John Balch.[1] About thirty acres of land near Dodge Street thus went into the possession of Mr. Balch, a tract which abutted on the east side of that highway from a point nearly opposite the cotton mill to within a short distance from the junction of Dodge and Conant Streets. The house erected upon this land remained in the Balch Family's possession for many years. Apparently it was built before 1733, when John Balch conveyed to his son Israel the land on which the latter's dwelling house stood:[2]

'... eight acres upland and swamp ground... bounded West Northerly with the Country Highway & Southwesterly & Eastsoutherly with Robert Dodge his Land & Northeasterly with my own Land and is divided therefrom by a bound fixed by the East Southerly side of the Said Country Road and the Southwesterly Side of a Branch of my Swamp that lays near to Said Country Highway....'

It was Israel Balch who owned the 'Bay Psalm Book', of which Alice Morse Earle tells in 'The Sabbath in Puritan New England'. On every blank page he wrote:

'Israel Balch, His Book
God give him grace therein to look,
And when the Bell for him doth Toal
May God have mearcy on his Sole'.

An apparent effort to achieve variety in the inscriptions was to be noted in the spelling of the words, no two pages being identical!

Records are missing of all the transfers of Israel Balch's

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 29, leaf 27.
[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 78, leaf 3.

land, but it seems to have passed into the ownership of his son Joshua and afterwards into that of the latter's son Joshua. A conveyance in 1805 [1] of 'a ninth part of the real estate of the heirs of Joshua Balch', described the estate as consisting of 'a dwelling house barn and about eight and one-half acres of land under & adjoining the same, bounded Northwesterly by the post road that leads from Essex Bridge to Ipswich', and also 'another piece of land to the North Westerly Side of said highway... containing one acre and three quarters'. Joseph Grant, who made this conveyance, had married Betsey, the daughter of Joshua Balch. She always remembered the stirring days of the Revolutionary War in which her childhood had passed — the wild alarms, and the excitement of the raid by the women upon Francis Cabot's warehouse, in which Betsey's older sister took part. As a young girl, seventeen years old, Betsey Grant found employment in the cotton mill, and was one of those with whom Washington held conversation, asking several questions about her work. She and her husband, Joseph Grant, came into the full possession of the Balch house, and their son, William H. Grant, was the next owner. His son, Francis Grant, clearly remembers the building, which was torn down when he was about twelve years old. It stood a little to the west of the present home of Herbert A. Abraham, 25 Dodge Street.

Another son of Benjamin Balch, Sr., was Freeborn, who was a farmer and lived near what is now Enon Street. The northerly portion of his land he received

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 178, leaf 114.

from his father, January 18, 1688/9.[1] It stretched along the shore of Wenham Lake from a point near the ice-houses to the Wenham line and some distance beyond that boundary. East of Enon Street Freeborn Balch owned forty-three acres, the southerly section of which he purchased, December 30, 1684, from Joshua Conant. The latter had received the land as a bequest from his grandfather, Roger Conant.[2]

According to tradition Freeborn Balch had the finest apple trees in Essex County, and this orchard he bequeathed to his son William. William Balch was a minister of Bradford, Massachusetts, and was in later years accused of Arminianism. He continued to run the cider-mill near his orchard, even after he moved away from Beverly, and the product, which brought the highest price in the market, gained the name of 'Arminian cider'.

Freeborn Balch had three other sons, Freeborn, Jr., Benjamin, and Skipper. The two brothers first named lived during their later years in the house which their father had built. March 3, 1730/31, Benjamin sold to John Conant his part of the house, barn, and cider-mill. Freeborn kept his portion of the farm as long as he lived, and bequeathed it to his son, another Freeborn Balch. The latter sold a small lot of land to Daniel and Nathaniel Conant in 1761.[3] His daughter Mary married Isaac Brown, and their son, Moses Brown, became a very prominent citizen of Beverly. He was captain of a Beverly company in Colonel John Glover's regiment

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 8, leaf 147.

[2] See page 41.

[3] Beverly Historical Society Collections.

during the Revolution. After the war he was associated with the Cabots, Lees, and Thorndikes in developing the overseas trade and in promoting cotton manufacture. He retired from active business about 1800, and devoted himself to politics, serving as a member of the Massachusetts Legislature. His portrait, painted by Gilbert Stuart, is in the Beverly Historical House, where are also his sword, secretary-desk, china, silver buckles, and numerous legal documents.

Another son of the first Freeborn Balch who lived near Wenham Lake was Skipper, only twenty-two years old when he died. His gravestone and those of his father and his sister Sarah are in the Wenham Cemetery, on the brow of the hill overlooking their colonial farmstead.

From the records it is clear that the grant of the Old Planter, John Balch, passing into the possession of Benjamin Balch, Sr., was augmented by various purchases until it reached a total of approximately two hundred and seventy acres:

Conveyed to Benjamin, grandson of Benjamin, Sr. . .	50 acres
Conveyed to Samuel, son of Benjamin, Sr., at least . .	60 acres
Conveyed to John, son of Benjamin, Sr.	62 acres
Conveyed to Freeborn, son of Benjamin, Sr. (part in Wenham)	51 acres
Conveyed to Benjamin, Jr., son of Benjamin, Sr.	25 acres
Conveyed to William Dodge, Jr.	17 acres
Share of sales of grant as joint owner, at least	5 acres

PETER PALFREY'S GRANT

The fifth Old Planter was Peter Palfrey, who received the most southerly portion of the thousand-acre farm at Bass River Side, that section of which a part in later years became known as the Mason farm and through which Mason Street now runs. The northern limit was Herrick Street, a highway early laid out by order of the town and described in 1678 as 'a drift way beginninge at the bottom of the Lane buttinge upon the Country Road and soe between farmer Dodges Land and the Land of Henry Herrick and soe unto the north East Corner of the saide Dodges field'.

'Farmer' Dodge, as the records frequently name him, bought Peter Palfrey's share in the joint farm in North Beverly when the latter went to Reading:[1]

'George Hawkins of Boston shipwright by vertue of a power of Attornie from George Richesson of wapping mariner bearing date the first of Ma(y) 1641 hath sould vnto willm Dods & his he(irs) for ever 200 acres of land or there about w(ithin) the bounds of Salem, nere the head of Basse River lately in the possession of Peter Palfrey for the some of £40 as by his deede app^{eth}, bearing date (the) 28 of Se^{ber}, 1644'.

William Dodge, who thus became the owner of Palfrey's grant, was the oldest of the three sons of John Dodge of Middle Chinnock, County of Somerset, in England. He came to America in the ship 'Lion's Whelp', which arrived at Salem, June 29, 1629. Nine years later

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 1, leaf 2.

his brother Richard also came to Salem and received a grant east of the Planters' farm. From him are descended most of the Beverly Dodges. The third brother, Michael Dodge, seems to have remained in England, but his son William journeyed to the New World. He was usually called 'Coker William' or 'William of Coker', in allusion to his English home town and in order to distinguish him from three other men by the name of William Dodge who were contemporary.

Farmer William Dodge came to Salem with the recommendation from the Reverend John White to Governor Endecott that he 'should appoint unto William Dodge, a skilful and painful husbandman, the charge of a team of horses'. The town of Salem granted him two lots:

'Graunted to William & Richard Dodge ffower score acres of Land lying on the Easter end of Mr Conant & John Woodbery & John Balche their ffarmes, whereof 12 acres of meadow'.

'Granted to Willm Dodge 20 acres'.

These lots with the land which he purchased of Peter Palfrey made Farmer Dodge's holdings exceed those of the other Old Planters. He early made his home in Beverly, in the house said to have been numbered later 431 Cabot Street. No trace of this house remains. To the west of its probable site, across the present Cabot Street, is the marsh still known as Dodge's Field, which the City of Beverly has recently purchased, to serve, when filled in, as a public playground.

Tradition has it that Farmer William Dodge was a tall man, with almost black hair and a swarthy complexion. His position in the community the records

clearly indicate. As selectman, juror, surveyor of roads and bounds, and member of committees serving in the interests of town or church, he was elected or appointed in nearly forty instances.[1] He was one of the founders of the First Church in Beverly in 1667, and between him and the Reverend John Hale there seem to have been the most cordial relations. He became a freeman, April 17, 1637.

Farmer Dodge held land in common with the other Old Planters, as seen in the conveyances to Edmond Patch [2] and Isaac Hull.[3] He sold to his brother Richard in 1656 forty acres of upland,[4] 'being part of eighty acres granted unto them both & six acres of meadow lying betwixt a farm belonging unto y^e^ said Richard Dodge & runing up towards 3 acres of that w^ch^ was Roger Haskalls... comonly called by y^e^ name of Longham'.

Farmer Dodge died at some time between 1685 and 1692. May 12, 1685, he conveyed to his son William:[5]

'... my house I now dwell in, with all other edifices, orchards, fences, belonging thereto and upon y^e^ land about itt, y^e^ same land being about twenty acres... also twenty fower acres ...on y^e^ rocks next my home lott: alsoe my land in y^e^ new feild, with all y^e^ rest of my land w^ch^ adjoineth thereto alsoe my land at y^e^ horse bridge being sixty acres... alsoe ten acres in Tops-

[1] A list of these appointments or elections is found in the John I. Baker Papers, Beverly Historical Society Collections. Evidently Mr. Baker gave the results of his research to the author of the Dodge Genealogy. See page 14.

[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 1, leaf 33.

[3] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 3, leaf 78.

[4] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 1, leaf 34.

[5] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 7, leaf 54.

field,... alsoe five acres of meadow... nere Nathaniel Stones farme alsoe the pond meadow belonging unto me at Goodman Hulls.'

This deed conveys one hundred and four acres besides the 'new feild', of which an estimate in a later deed was twenty acres. To his daughter Hannah, who married first Samuel Porter, and second, Thomas Woodbery, he gave 'twelve acres lying in y^e^ comon feild', and during 'her natural life the improvement of the one halfe of my farm in Wenham w^ch^ I bought of Mr John Fiske'.[1] Farmer Dodge also gave sixteen acres to his nephew, William of Coker.[2]

No mention is made in this deed of Farmer William Dodge's son John, who outlived him more than thirty years, and whose possessions apparently lay north of Brimble Hill (the Beverly reservoir hill). He also had land which came to him through his marriage to Elizabeth, the widow of John Woodbery, Sr.[3]

Yet another son of Farmer William Dodge received no mention in any deed — Josiah, who fell at Bloody Brook, South Deerfield, where Joseph Balch, the son of Benjamin, Sr., and Peter, the son of Humphrey Woodbery, also lost their lives.

The Dodge homestead, conveyed to Farmer Dodge's son William, was the latter's home during his long life of eighty years. He rendered notable service in the war against the Narragansett Indians, and he held many town offices (sixty-two instances of his election or appointment found by Mr. John I. Baker), and he

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 8, leaf 163.

[2] See page 131. [3] See page 53.

also represented Beverly in the General Court. He bequeathed the homestead to his oldest son, another William Dodge,[1] and the land, together with small lots in Topsfield and in Ipswich, seems to have made a total of more than one hundred acres. A 'cyder house' as a part of the home property is mentioned in several documents, which describe both Captain William and his son as maltsters. The third William drew up a will in 1739,[2] in which he made the following bequests:

To his wife, Mary (Porter) Dodge, the use for life of one third of his real estate and one third of his personal estate; to Benjamin Standley, 'my Small Dwelling house that Standeth by the Road on the Hill near to Isaac Woodberrys house and one quarter of an acre of land on which the house standeth'; to the First Church 'one Silver Tankard That Shall hold one quart of Liquor'; to the Rev. Joseph Champney, five pounds in money; and to his only child then living, Anna, the wife of John Rea, all the rest of his real and personal estate. Anna Dodge had previously married Dr. Timothy Clements, who had died at the age of thirty-two, leaving no children. Of the children of her second marriage seven were living in 1757, when a commission made a division of the estate, after deducting fifteen acres of common land.[3] The Dodge house must by this time have become quite roomy, as it was divided among three of the heirs. The commission also partitioned among the heirs more than eighty acres of land.

Captain William Dodge (the son of Farmer William) had other heirs besides the son who inherited the homestead, a son Robert, a grandson Joshua, and two daughters. To Robert and Joshua he bequeathed

[1] Essex Probate Court Records, book 313, pages 163 to 167.

[2] Essex Probate Court Records, book 327, pages 225 to 228.

[3] Essex Probate Court Records, book 334, pages 399 and 400.

his 'Implements of husbandry... a Gun and a Sword'. Robert received the 'New Feild' and 'sixteene acres which I bought of Benjamin Balch Sen^r & y^e Orchard & Trees on itt', in addition to land in Topsfield and in Ipswich.

The sixteen-acre lot was that which Benjamin Balch, Sr., conveyed to William Dodge 'at the head of the railes toward Wenham... pt of about fifty acres of land which was lately John Balchs deceased', January 15, 1663.[1] William also had his share of the little thatch pond just east of the sixteen-acre lot. This tract lay east of Cabot Street, and extended from a little south of the junction of Cabot and Dodge Streets to the Balch property later William Grant's. To this lot bequeathed to Robert Dodge were added four acres and fifty-nine poles, which he bought of William Bradford, the son-in-law of John Rayment, Sr.[2]

A house must have been standing on the sixteen-acre lot in 1762, when Robert Dodge conveyed about seventeen acres of land in that section, with a house and a barn to his son Nicholas,[3] and also two and three-quarters acres of swamp which lay south of portions given to two other sons. In December of the same year Nicholas Dodge sold the property to William Sears,[3] who retained it until 1794, and then conveyed it to John Batchelder, Jr.[4] The father of John Batchelder, Jr.,

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 2, leaf 80. It should be remembered that Captain William Dodge married the daughter of Roger Conant, whose first husband, John Balch, Jr., was drowned in the harbor of Beverly.

[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 51, leaf 248; April 12, 1721.

[3] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 111, leaf 110.

[4] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 164, leaf 208.

had already purchased a small lot adjoining on the south. Of the Deacon John Batchelder house the Beverly Historical Society has an interesting pencil sketch. The dwelling was later cut into two sections, one of which was removed. The other section, remodeled, still stands on the original site. A small piece of land — forty-three square feet — was sold from the lot in 1813 to Peter Shaw, whose estate adjoined it on the south.[1]

Robert Dodge also received from his father twenty acres in the new field and 'y^e^ housing on itt'. He added to his holdings by the purchase from William Trask of ten acres that bordered upon Wenham Lake,[2] and another lot which he divided between his two sons, Robert, Jr., and Caleb. It was orchard and tillage land, and apparently lay west of Cabot Street and opposite the present North Beverly Cemetery. Robert Dodge, Jr., also received seven acres near Peter Woodberry's land, and a share in the swamp adjoining that of his brother Nicholas; he had more than fifteen acres in all.

To his son Isaac the elder Robert Dodge gave two acres of land in 1732[3] and five acres in 1736;[4] the former lot lay east of the land of Israel Balch, and was bounded on the west and north by the country road; the latter tract was west of Cabot Street and north of Conant Street, not abutting on those highways, but enclosed by land of Joshua Dodge and Josiah Woodberry. Isaac Dodge also bought of Rufus and Sarah

[1] Beverly Historical Society Collections.
[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 38, leaf 42.
[3] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 61, leaf 47.
[4] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 91, leaf 223.

Herrick eight acres.[1] When he moved to Methuen in 1747, he conveyed the land to his brother Caleb, and with it the seven acres which he had received from their father, Robert Dodge, Sr.,[2] on which stood a house, a barn, and a shop.

Caleb Dodge received from his father an acre of land on which to build a house;[3] and he bought, in addition to the fifteen acres that had belonged to his brother Isaac, two acres and twenty-five poles of Peter Woodberry, 3d,[4] and ten acres from Ephraim Gibson and Jacob Browne, Jr.;[5] he also had land near Wenham Lake and in Manchester. The inventory of his estate included the homestead, consisting of a house, a barn, and eighteen acres of land, eleven acres 'on the western side of the road opposite the dwelling with a Cooper's shop', 'eight acres at Chipman's so called', south of Conant Street and southwest of the Conant-Chipman house, seventeen acres in two divisions called Rea's, and sixty-six acres besides, outside of the Planters' grant. The homestead was the house later numbered 649 Cabot Street.[6]

Caleb Dodge's will was an interesting document. He bequeathed to his two granddaughters, Joanna Prince and Hannah Lovett, his 'indoor Moveables'; to his brother William his best Beaver hat; to his two grandsons, Caleb Dodge Batchelder, and Josiah Batchelder, 3d, the remainder of his wearing

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 91, leaf 223.

[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 124, leaf 12.

[3] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 83, leaf 88; January 1, 1737.

[4] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 124, leaf 13.

[5] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 80, leaf 275; July 7, 1741.

[6] Essex Probate Court Records, book 366, page 35; date, December 26, 1797.

apparel, including 'my Silver Buckle, Side Arms, Sword & Accouterments and my Watch'; and each of these grandsons was to have 'a good middling priced house... or a sufficient sum of money to buy such a house'; the executor of the will was to purchase a 'hansom silver Porringer' for Hannah Lovett and also for Joanna Prince.[1] Caleb Dodge left the 'improvement of my real estate' to Josiah Batchelder, Jr., with the injunction that the buildings be kept in good repair, the stock 'recruited', and the land 'in good heart', so that 'the same be transmitted to my grandsons well conditioned'. One half of this real estate was to be Caleb Dodge Batchelder's and afterwards his daughter's; the other half was to belong to Josiah Batchelder, 3d; this adjoined Caleb's property at Birch Plain.

From the will of Josiah Batchelder, Jr., drawn in 1804,[2] it appears that his granddaughter Hannah received all the personal estate of her father, Caleb Dodge Batchelder, who died in 1800, and half of the 'Dodge farm, that falls to her by the last will of her great-grandfather Dodge'; and Josiah Batchelder, the younger, had the 'live stock, tools and farming utencils, indoor and outdoor moveables... that may be found on the Dodge farm... at my decease', and other bequests. Joanna Prince and Hannah Lovett received 'all my Woodberry farm, (that William Webber now lives in...) containing a hundred and ten to a hundred and twenty acres'.

Josiah Batchelder, of Boston, Physician, released to Elizabeth Lovett[3] of Beverly all title to 'that half of the Real Estate of my Grand Father Caleb Dodge which was set off to Hannah Batchelder, the daughter of my brother, Caleb Dodge Batchelder, eleven acres, bounded Easterly by the highway, Southerly by land of Samuel Dodge, Westerly by land of Betty Baker, and Northerly by land of John Conant'. This tract lay west of Cabot Street and some distance north of County Way.

[1] Joanna Prince and Hannah Hill founded the first Sunday School in New England.

[2] Dodge Papers and Batchelder Papers, Beverly Historical Society Collections.

[3] Batchelder Papers, Beverly Historical Society Collections.

Dr. Batchelder also released 'nine acres, bounded Westerly by the highway, Northerly by land of Isaac Woodberry, Easterly by land of Joshua Roberts, Southerly by land of the heirs of Samuel Blanchard, Esquire', and two parcels in Porter's meadow, thirty acres in Birch Plain, and ten acres in Manchester.

The homestead of Caleb Dodge passed into the hands of Deacon Charles Perry, who sold it and the land around it to the Town of Beverly, when more space became necessary in the North Beverly Cemetery.

William Dodge, the brother of Caleb, received from his father, Robert Dodge, twelve acres 'behind Wenham Pond',[1] about two acres of the swamp near Robert, Junior's, lot, and five acres in Salem. He bought of William Taylor the half-house, barn, and six acres of land that had been Samuel Balch's,[2] and four years later he purchased of Cornelius Baker the other half of the house.[3] His home appears to have been just north of the North Beverly Church. His sons, Pyam and Ezekiel, transferred 'two thirds of the real estate in Beverly of William Dodge' to a brother Levi:

This included six acres and the buildings north of the Parish land and Peter Homan's lot, twelve acres east of Cabot Street and north of Simeon Baker's heirs, and eight acres of meadow and swamp. Levi Dodge occupied Deacon William Dodge's house for some time.

Another heir of Captain William Dodge (the son of

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 128, leaf 93; April 17, 1762.

[2] See page 105.

[3] The rest of Samuel Balch's land north of Conant Street, seven acres, his heirs sold to Joshua Cleaves in 1755. — Essex Registry of Deeds, book 116, leaf 168.

Farmer Dodge) was his grandson Joshua, the child of his son Joshua, who had died at the age of twenty-five. The latter's widow, who had been Joanna Larkin, the daughter of Joanna (Hale) Larkin, married John Thorndike, and in his family Joshua's little son was reared. The second Joshua Dodge, who was said 'to exemplify in his life every Christian and social virtue to great perfection,' had received a generous bequest from his Grandfather Dodge, who had directed his executor to 'Pay Twenty Pounds to his Cousin Joshua Dodge when he shall or hath erected himself a house on Land I have hereafter given him Lying on both sides of y^e^ road Way att y^e^ place Called Horse Bridge [1]... & my Acre of land w^ch^ I bought of Benjamin Balch Sen^r^ to make Sixteen Acres Seventeen, Lying by y^e^ Town highway on y^e^ West & ye Country Road on y^e^ north'. This one-acre lot came to Captain William Dodge after a dispute with Benjamin Balch, Sr., as to the bounds of the more southerly lot near the junction of Cabot and Dodge Streets. The arbitrators in the controversy decided, April 29, 1683, that Mr. Balch must give to William Dodge one acre at the present southeastern corner of Cabot and Conant Streets, where a house was built which people of Beverly have in more recent times known as the Webber Place.[2]

Deacon Joshua Dodge seems to have come into possession of the northern part of the sixty-acre tract which John Rayment, Sr., gave to his son John, perhaps

[1] Horse Bridge was the name given to the narrow bridge over the brook at the eastern base of Cherry Hill.

[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 8, leaf 183.

through Joshua's marriage to Hannah Rayment. In 1748 he sold thirty acres near Wenham Lake to Zachariah Herrick, which apparently included the twenty-five acres, house, and barn, 'a part of the late estate of my father Zachariah Herrick' sold by the latter's son, Asa Herrick, to John Glover, May 1, 1787, and by him conveyed to Peter Homan the following month.[1]

In his will Deacon Joshua Dodge left his real estate to be divided equally between two of his sons, George and Israel, since his other son, Joshua, Jr., had already had his share (no record of which is found).[2] There was a dwelling, a barn, and about ninety acres of land. June 15, 1784, George and Israel Dodge conveyed fifteen acres to Josiah Trow, a tract which was bounded west and north by Jonathan Conant's land, east by the lane to Conant's house, and south by the road.[3] A few days later the two brothers sold to John Trow '... two parcels ... part of the estate of our honored father Deacon Joshua Dodge', which consisted of about forty-four acres north of the road, upon which stood a house, and twenty-five acres south of Conant Street, extending westward from Joseph Chipman's land.[4] John Trow conveyed these two parcels to Billy Porter, October 10, 1793,[5] and the land seems to have been included in the tract of one hundred and twenty-two acres which Billy Porter sold to Joshua Wyman.[6] Mr. Wyman sold

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 146, leaf 299, and book 149, leaf 67.
[2] Essex Probate Court Records, book 347, page 326.
[3] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 137, leaf 228.
[4] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 142, leaf 210.
[5] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 190, leaf 27.
[6] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 173, leaf 78.

eighty-five acres with all buildings, 'except ninety-five rods with house and shop inclosed by the fence and the brook at horse bridge', to John Conant,[1] who afterwards purchased a house and less than an acre of land of William Francis.[2] This small lot extended from Horse Bridge through the middle of the brook along land previously bought by John Conant.

Major John Conant was of the seventh generation in descent from Roger Conant, and was born in the Conant homestead on the north side of Dodges' Row. He was a farmer and shoemaker, a Major of militia, and a representative of Beverly in the General Court two years. For some time after his marriage he lived in Topsfield, but he returned to Beverly about 1815. At first he occupied a house just beyond Horse Bridge, but later he built the dwelling now numbered 80 Conant Street and owned by Edward Millett. His son John either erected the house nearly opposite or repaired one already there. In it was born Henry Conant, the grandfather of Mr. Harry Conant, Arlington Avenue, Beverly.

George Dodge seems to have lived farther west on Conant Street on land which he bought of the heirs of Rufus Herrick. His large farm, later conveyed to Jonathan Conant, was in 1830 in possession of Mr. White, of Salem. Israel Dodge, the brother of George, moved to Salem.

All the Dodge lands near Conant Street, the tract near the junction of Cabot and Dodge Streets, the lot west of Cabot Street, and the larger and more southerly

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 190, leaf 28.

[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 205, leaf 282.

homestead farm later owned by Mr. Mason — all these were included in Farmer William Dodge's bequest to his son, Captain William. The elder William Dodge had another son, Captain John Dodge, whose land near the head of Bass River has already received mention in describing the Woodbery estate in that section. He served in the Narragansett War in 1675, was a deputy to the General Court from 1693 to 1696 and again in 1702, and was often a juror and a member of committees for town and parish business.

Captain John Dodge had two sons, William and Jonathan. Probably because there were several men in Beverly by the name of William Dodge who were contemporary, Captain John's older son was termed in many of the records, 'William Quartus'. It will be remembered that he received in 1702 more than fifty acres of land, with a house and the mills which his father had operated near the head of Bass River. At the same time he made a covenant with his father to pay him annually five pounds and twenty shillings in current silver and a stated quantity of farm and mill products.[1] He died in 1706, and his brother Jonathan took over the land and the mills for a term of seven years.[2] For his heirs — four girls, the oldest of whom was twelve years of age — guardians were appointed, Jonathan Rayment, Deacon William Dodge, and Nathaniel Waldron. A controversy evidently developed concerning land which William Quartus had received from his father, in a deed of gift witnessed by Samuel Balch and Ebenezer Woodbery:

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 21, leaf 33.
[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 33, leaf 66.

June 6, 1710, Samuel Balch testified that he was at Captain John Dodge's house in October or November, 1702, and saw him sign and deliver a deed of thirty-five acres at or near the hill commonly called Brimble Hill to his son William Dodge.

On the same day Ebenezer Woodbery testified 'to all y^e^ within written deposition which was sworn to by Samuel Balch, being in Company with y^e^ Said Samuel Balch in October 1702 at Capt John Dodges & was an eye witness to y^e^ Transaction of y^e^ affairs betwixt y^e^ s^d^ John Dodge & his son William Dodge... and witness to y^e^ Deed from y^e^ Said Cap^t^ John Dodge to his Son William Dodge before Justice Hale & y^e^ Said William Dodge at y^e^ Same time gave a deed back to his father — or his Brother Jonathan according as his father desired it should be of Eleven acres of land which he had in Beverly by his wife & alsoe Surrendered up a dwelling house & barne fencing & Oarchard to his Said father or Bro^r^ Jonathan for him which he had built & Set up & planted on a peice of ground which his father had only given him by word of mouth, but no deed of it, & all this he gave up in consideration of y^e^ thirty-five acres of land conveyed to him by his father at Brimble Hill... and I well remember that after y^e^ death of y^e^ Said William Dodge I Saw y^e^ Said Deed of y^e^ thirty five acres of land at Brimble Hill Safe & Sound in his house.' [1]

William Quartus certainly gave his father a deed of twelve acres at 'Alewive Brook', with Conant's meadow on the north and the lot of Freeborn Balch on the west.[2]

Jonathan Dodge, however, received from his father a deed of thirty-five acres at Brimble Hill at about the time that William Quartus died.[3] Apparently Captain John Dodge had intended to give his real estate equally

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 21, leaf 180.
[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 19, leaf 6.
[3] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 19, leaf 70, July 25, 1706.

to both sons; but after the death of the elder son Captain John 'had a greater dependence upon my son Jonathan Dodge in my old age than I should have needed if others had lived and made good their engagements they were under for supplying myself and my wife to our dying day; and now in order that he may be better able to help and especially to supply ten cords of wood yearly I deed to him thirty five acres'. This tract was bounded by land of the Conants, Joseph Herrick, Jonathan Rayment, and the grantee. Jonathan Dodge must previously have received the northern section of the Brimble Hill lot, to which he was granted 'a way already lay'd & fenc't in from y^{e} way that leads from Beverly to Chebacko in Ipswich'.

Jonathan Dodge lived on the Salem side of Bass River until his father died, and then he moved to Beverly. He served the town in many ways, such as juror, constable, and fence-viewer. That he was a prosperous man the inventory of his estate bore witness: eighty-four acres in the homestead, apparently the land extending from the present Dodge Street to the Beverly reservoir, forty-two acres north of the highway, twenty-three acres 'at Sam Woodberys', and three acres at the pond (Wenham Lake), besides small lots at Leach's and King's farms at Ryal Side. His second wife, Jerusha Rayment (formerly Jerusha Woodbery, who first married George Rayment), outlived him, and his will also mentioned six sons, George, William, John, Jonathan, Francis, and Peter, a step-daughter Hannah, the wife of Deacon Joshua Dodge, another Jonathan, the son of Francis, still another Jonathan, the

son of George, and a granddaughter Elizabeth. Added to the confusion of finding the same given name for many contemporaries in Farmer William Dodge's line of descent is the similar difficulty in a much greater number of his brother Richard's descendants, who held land east of the Planters' grant. Surely never was street so fitly named as Dodges' Row!

Francis, Jonathan Dodge's oldest son, lived in Beverly until 1734, and then moved to Brookfield, Massachusetts. George, another son of Jonathan, went to Ipswich to live. William, the third son, remained in Beverly, and made his home on land which his father had given him on Dodges' Row. He married first Mary Balch, who died the same year, 1736; he then married Deborah Balch, and they had ten children.

William Dodge owned seventeen acres and thirty poles near the southern end of his father's holdings; four acres and thirty poles on the south side of Dodge Street, adjoining on the west the Raymond land, later that of Levi Dodge; fifteen and three-quarters acres on the north side of the highway, next to the houselot; and several small pieces of meadow and swamp ground. To the total of more than fifty acres he added nineteen acres bought of his youngest brother, Peter, who moved to Wenham.

In 1769 William Dodge gave to his son William a house 'near Deacon Raymond's corner so called', and land 'bounding on my land excepting where it bounds on the highway'.[1] The house stood on the easterly side of the road, the present Enon Street. William Dodge, Jr., also had land which he bought of Joshua Cleaves,[2] at that time in possession of a large portion of the Benerges Raymond estate. The lot which the

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 122, leaf 283.

[2] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 132, leaf 219.

younger William Dodge purchased contained nine acres, one hundred and fifteen poles, 'orchard and tillage', and lay north of his own land and that of his uncle John Dodge, adjoining Freeborn Balch's estate on the northwest and the southwest, and having the country road on the west. This was evidently the lot which Mr. Cleaves had bought of Daniel and Nathaniel Conant in 1754. It must have been near the present North Beverly station that William Dodge, Jr., lived.[1] In the very year in which he received the deed of gift from his father, he went to sea and never returned.

Samuel, the oldest surviving son of the elder William Dodge in 1777, went to St. Stephens, New Brunswick. In his will, proved in 1808, he left three hundred dollars a year for life to his two brothers, Thomas and John, and also his land in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Beverly; and his house and lot in Newburyport to his nephew Samuel, the son of Thomas.[2] The house which Samuel had owned in Beverly, and one half of a barn, nine acres near his grandfather's land, and a half-acre of meadow, seem to have been on the north side of Dodge Street.

Another son of Jonathan Dodge was John, who owned the land which was afterwards the property of Edward Danforth.[3] Besides the tract of eleven acres south of Dodge Street, he also had about fourteen acres north of the highway and west of the Conant land — later Andrew Dodge's — forty-four acres in several other tracts, and privilege in the sawmill on Bass River. He spent his later life in Wenham, and further increased his possessions, so that at the time of his death his estate was appraised at more than eleven thousand pounds. It then included sixty acres to the south of Dodges' Row, and this tract quite possibly may have been made

[1] Essex Probate Court Records, book 349, page 327.
[2] Essex Probate Court Records, book 377, page 225.
[3] Essex Probate Court Records, book 353, page 451.

up of portions of land which had formerly belonged to his brothers, Francis, George, and Peter, who had early left Beverly. John Dodge bequeathed to his son Charles the farm already in the latter's hands on Dodges' Row; to John, the Wenham farm which he was occupying; and to Jonathan, land in the 'great field', the 'grass plot', and a tract near 'Alewive Brook'.

A fifth son of Jonathan Dodge was Jonathan, Jr., who married Deborah Balch and came into ownership of the Balch house. He also had land near that of Benjamin Woodberry, and a large tract bought of Captain Hugh Hill. For a time he lived in Wenham, and then for about twenty-five years made his home in Ipswich. He returned to Beverly in 1772. Of his children one, Cornelius, succeeded to the possession of the Balch house, and another, Abner, disposed of his titles to property in Beverly and moved to Bridgton, Maine.

The account of Farmer William Dodge's holdings in the Planters' grant is not complete without mention of another William Dodge, the son of Michael Dodge, who remained in England. Little is known of 'William of Coker', the nephew of Farmer William; but the description of Herrick Street in some documents as 'the way leading to Cokers so called', the term, 'Aunty Cokers Orchard', and the bounds of his sixteen acres of land as set forth in the deed of gift from Farmer William,[1] all seem to point to the land near the southern slope of Brimble Hill, where is now the Beverly reservoir. Farmer Dodge instructed his son, Captain William, to 'pay to my brother if he come to New England and

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 8, leaf 163.

dwell in this town five pounds per annum so long as he shall dwell here'. This brother must have been Michael Dodge, and for his son who came to the New World in his stead, Farmer Dodge evidently felt responsibility. Besides the gift of sixteen acres, Coker William later asserted that his uncle had promised ten more. He made this claim after both Farmer William and Captain William had died, and their holdings had passed into Captain John Dodge's possession and that of Deacon William Dodge. The former in 1692 gave the claimant five acres.[1]

Coker William Dodge married Elizabeth, the daughter of Roger Haskell, whose land adjoined the Dodge grant. Mr. Haskell in his will gave his son-in-law 'ten Acres most convenient for him near his own dwelling'. In 1696/7 William and Elizabeth Dodge conveyed to Joseph Herrick five acres, 'with my dwelling house thereon', and another parcel of ten acres. Perhaps the conveyance was made because of their removal from Beverly, for the records make no further allusion to William of Coker.

With the tracing of the greater part of Farmer William Dodge's land to the fifth generation from the Old Planters, this study of Beverly's earliest grant comes to an end. It would be an interesting — but a very long — task to make the research more nearly complete, at least to bridge the gap from the late 1700's down to 1840, the date at which present-day investigations of old titles usually halt; but space forbids, and records of transfers are not infrequently lacking. Only in the few instances

[1] Essex Registry of Deeds, book 11, leaf 231.

of seventeenth or early eighteenth century houses that are still standing in Beverly, has an approach to a complete record been attempted. The effort has been to outline the probable limit of the Planters' grant and its early changes in ownership, and to learn what manner of men it was who founded the town of Beverly — men in whom their descendants, however far they have scattered, may well take pride.

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